


1987

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Mayfield Messenger

'Kentucky All Over'

By Joe T. Lovett

**The Start Of Ed Diddle
At Western State Univ.**

A man named Naismith may have invented the game of basketball, but the creator of enthusiasm and dedication was the fabulous Ed Diddle. You would be hard to put to find a Kentuckian past 25 years of age who never heard of the famous Ed Diddle. But you would be in equally tough straights to find anyone, even among those who knew him well, who know how it all started.

Ed Diddle did not have anyone in hollering distance of being his equal at arousing a group of young men to fever pitch - and literally to "out-do" their highest natural abilities at the overwhelmingly popular game of basketball.

How did it all start? We'll let Kelly Thompson, president emeritus of Western State University at Bowling Green, and now president of the College Heights Foundation, tell the story. Kelly Thompson, with his winsome sincerity, was undoubtedly the world's greatest recruiter. He got the players. Ed Diddle brought them to victory. A superb and much-beloved team. Now, Mr. Thompson has the stage and the following are his exact words.

No man in the history of Kentucky athletics had a more colorful or successful career than the late Ed Diddle of Western Kentucky University. Among his other contributions to Western athletics, he coached basketball at the Bowling Green school for forty-two seasons. During that period he achieved records which place him among the all-time greats in the Basketball Hall of Fame at Springfield, Massachusetts.

In 1922, he was coach of the Greenville, Kentucky, high school. The Greenville team was scheduled to play in the district tournament at Owensboro. Excessive spring rains washed out ferry service across Green River, making it impossible for him to take his team to Owensboro. Ralph Hill, who was then in charge of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association, ordered the Greenville team to participate in the tournament at Bowling Green; and Diddle's team entered the tournament-picked to lose in the first round. The team pulled three upsets in a row and in so doing displayed sensational fight and determination.

Their performance in the Bowling Green tournament, which was held on the Western campus, made such an impression on Dr. H.H. Cherry, the founder of Western, that he decided that the first full-time coach at Western would be E.A. Diddle and employed him for the job forthwith.

This is how the great Diddle legend started, and this is how the great Diddle record began.

**Western's Coach Diddle
Buried At Bowling Green**

Hilltoppers 103.

Adairville Independents 7 . . .

This was the score of Ed Diddle's first game as coach of Western's basketball team back in 1922 after Dr. H. H. Cherry, Western's first president, hired him away from Greenville High School.

Nearly a half century later, honored across the nation as one of basketball's alltime greats and one of the most colorful figures in the history of the sport, Edgar Allen Diddle was laid to rest today at Fairview Cemetery in Bowling Green.

The funeral was scheduled at 10 a.m. at the First Baptist Church. The family had asked that condolences be expressed in the form of contributions to the E. A. Diddle Scholarship Fund, College Heights Foundation, Bowling Green. Mr. Diddle died at 74 Friday morning at Bowling Green.

When he retired after the 1963-64 season, he was the only coach ever to guide his team through more than 1000 college games and his career record read 759 - 302.

Survivors include his wife, two children, and three grandchildren.

#767
1970

C. P. N. Jones

**Hundreds
Attend Rites
For Diddle**

By the hundreds they came from throughout Kentucky today, not only to mourn the death of Edgar Allen Diddle—but to celebrate his life as well.

With those words, the Rev. Phillip Bimbower of the Bowling Green Presbyterian Church struck the keynote as final rites were held for the retired Western University basketball coach at the First Baptist Church this morning.

"His unquenchable spirit spilled over into thousands of lives," the minister said.

"We hold him in loving and grateful memory."

The Rev. H. Franklin Paschal of Nashville, former minister of the First Baptist Church, said:

"Most of us will remember him best for his deep devotion to his players, whom he taught how to play...to score...and to win."

"If we could translate his basketball philosophy into our lives, we would be most fortunate."

"If basketball is played in heaven, you can bet that Ed Diddle will wind up as coach."

The pallbearers were:

John Oldham, Frank Griffin, Wallace (Buck) Sydnor, Jim Pickens, George Ennis, Darel Carrier, Don Ray, Bobby Rascoe, Kelly Thompson, Dero Downing, Ted Hornback, Dr. Chalmer Embry, Dr. W. R. McCormack, Dr. John Scarbrough, Charles Campbell, Hugh Poland and Dee Gibson. Nearly all of them were former

athletes under Diddle and the remainder were closely associated with him at Western.

Not only his own players, but star cagers at other schools while Diddle coached were on hand.

Included were former University of Kentucky "All-America Ralph Beard" of Louisville and Eastern University coach Guy Strong.

Hundreds of mourners jammed the main floor of the church for the services.

Burial was in Fairview Cemetery.

C.J. 1-6-70 16

'He Was a Good One'

1,000 pay final tribute to beloved Coach Diddle

By DAVE KINDRED, Louisville Times Sports Columnist

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Ed Diddle Jr. cried. He stood before his father's casket yesterday and cried. A bear of a man, tall and thick, he played basketball for his dad at Western Kentucky University in the late '40s.

When Ed Jr. became a college coach, too, going to Middle Tennessee, he first took his team against his dad's boys on Jan. 31, 1957. Western Kentucky won the game 79-72, but it wasn't easy. And Ed Diddle Sr., then in the 33rd year of a career that would mark him unique among coaches and beloved among gentlemen, breathed a sigh of relief when victory was accomplished.

"You know," the old coach said, talking about his son in the jumbled-word fashion that was his habit when in a hurry, "that little scare had me scamped for a while."

Yesterday, three weeks short of 13 years since that Diddle-Diddle confrontation, the "little scamp" stood before his father's casket and cried.

Ed Diddle Sr. died Friday. He was 74. The funeral was yesterday, and in the morning his son, daughter, wife and two of his three grandchildren met visitors at the Gerard-Bradley Funeral Home.

On occasion, Ed Jr. stood there, silent. He looked at his father. The old coach had on a red-and-white striped tie. Western Kentucky's colors are red and white. The coach had a red handkerchief in his

breast pocket. ("We gave it to him for Christmas," Ed said.) The coach had in his hands a red towel, this one with black script lettering that read "Coach Diddle."

A Delight to the Fans

Then, softly, his voice almost cracking, Ed Diddle Jr. said, "He was a good one."

He was a good one. In 42 years at Western Kentucky, Ed Diddle became a basketball coach of national prominence, popularizing the fast break, delighting fans with his frantic towel-waving and turning out teams that won 759 games.

He was more, too, and, though everyone long knew it, the funeral showed it yesterday.

Nearly 1,000 persons came to the First Baptist Church for the services. More than 120 floral arrangements were delivered to the funeral home, including roses from the 1920 Monticello High School team that was Diddle's first ("First-Stringers Still Here in Monticello — Dr. John Back, O. G. Wilhite and R. O. Cook," the card said). Flowers came from Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Illinois, Ohio, Florida, Texas, Oklahoma and Indiana.

At the church, a red towel was hung beneath a spray of roses high above the altar. Near the casket stood a basketball

of roses with a bronze-colored base bearing a "W," all fashioned in the manner of a trophy. Beneath it, too, was a red towel. Members of this year's Western Kentucky basketball team were ushers.

The basketball team played a game at home last night, in E.A. Diddle Arena, and that's the way Edgar Allen Diddle wanted it.

On Wednesday before he died, the coach called Dr. Dero Downing to his bedside in the City-County Hospital. Downing, one of Diddle's players in the early '40's, now is president of the university.

"Do me a favor," the coach said to Downing. "If anything happens to me—I don't think it will, but things happen to the best of people—if anything happens, I don't want any game postponed or canceled."

So on Saturday, the day after Diddle's death, Western Kentucky played at home. A wreath was hung on the coach's personal box seat at one end of the court. An honor guard stood there throughout the game.

One of 17 Pallbearers

Downing told the story yesterday, and then he said:

"There was a warmth about Coach Diddle, a warmth that made everyone love him. Bobby Rascoe, for instance. Bobby nursed Coach Diddle like he was a baby all summer long."

Rascoe is another of Diddle's former players. He was one of 17 active and honorary pallbearers who carried the casket to its final resting place in Bowling Green's Fairview Cemetery.

The other pallbearers were Dr. Downing; Dr. Kelly Thompson, who retired this year as Western's president; Ted Hornback, long Diddle's assistant and now athletic director; John Oldham, who succeeded Diddle in 1964 as head coach; Wallace (Buck) Sydnor, Oldham's assistant; Hugh Poland of Guthrie and Dr. Chalmer P. Embry of Owensboro, members of Western's board of regents.

Also, Dr. W. R. McCormack, Diddle's personal physician; Charley Campbell and George Ennis, both Bowling Green businessmen; Dr. John Scarbrough, a Western faculty member, and former players Dee Gibson, Don (Duck) Ray, Darel Carrier, Jim Pickens and Frank Griffin. Oldham and Sydnor also played for Diddle.

They all, undoubtedly, have their favorite remembrances of the coach. So did the Rev. H. Franklin Taschel, minister of the First Baptist Church in Nashville, who spoke briefly during the services.

"He taught the boys how to play the game—and he taught them more than that. He taught the boys how to score—and he taught them more than that. He taught them how to win—and if we can translate what he taught on the basketball court into life itself, then we'll come to a better understanding of the greatness of this man, Edgar Allen Diddle."

He was a good one.



Staff Photo by Paul Schuhmann

HUGGING his daughter, Mary Eller, 10, Ed Diddle Jr. stands before the casket of his father, the former Western Kentucky basketball coach who died Friday. With them is Mrs. Ed Diddle Jr.

THE SPECTATOR

by dave kindred

Greenville Leader-Contractor News

1-7-70

Mr. Diddle filled his life with acts of human kindness

It was an ironic turn of events. In Thursday's paper, the death of Dr. Ben Wilson Smock was reported. Then, Friday, Ed Diddle was dead. Nothing in the papers connected the men—one a prominent physician in Louisville, the other the legendary basketball coach of Western Kentucky University. But there was a connection, and it told much about both men.

Dr. Kelly Thompson remembered. Thompson was president of Western Kentucky from 1953 until he retired this year. Before that, he was, first, a player under Diddle and then, later, the coach's publicity man and dear friend. Thompson saw Dr. Smock's obituary the other day, and when Diddle died the next day, he told the story.

"It was in 1920," Thompson said. "It was summer, the summer after Mr. Diddle had graduated from Centre. He was out West, somewhere in Colorado, working for the White-Meyers Chautauqua Company. He didn't know what he was going to do when the summer ended,



COACH ED DIDDLE
Started in Greenville

He didn't have a job, he hadn't saved any money. Then he got this telegram from Dr. Smock."

Dr. Smock, at the time, was president of the Muhlenburg County Board of Education.

Kindness Repaid

"Mr. Diddle couldn't place the name," Thompson said. "But, finally, he remembered. Dr. Smock had been a medical student at the University of Louisville. He came down to Lexington to see Centre play Kentucky in a football game, but he didn't have any tickets.

"Now, Uncle Charlie Moran, the Centre coach, always gave his players two tickets to each game. Most of the boys sold them. But Mr. Diddle always gave his away. So he ran into Dr. Smock, whom he'd never seen before, and gave him the tickets. Dr. Smock told him later that if he hadn't given him the tickets, he wouldn't have been able to buy his girl

anything to eat that night.

"Anyway, two or three years later, Dr. Smock sent a telegram to Mr. Diddle. The telegram said: 'Vacancy in football coaching position at Greenville High School. Would you accept job, and if so, at what salary?'

"Well, Mr. Diddle answered him: 'I will accept the job. And to hell with the salary.'"

Kindness repaid by kindness—and if the story is typical of Ed Diddle, it is by no means unique.

Peck Gets a Suit

Kelly Thompson, broke and discouraged, would have quit school in 1928, except that Ed Diddle co-signed for a \$25 loan for him. Peck Hickman, later a successful coach at Louisville, attended graduation ceremonies at Western only after Diddle took him downtown and bought him a suit. And Lawrence Wetherby, governor of Kentucky from 1950 to 1955, remembers another story.

"Yes," Wetherby said, "I'd say Mr. Diddle was Kelly Thompson's strongest supporter when it came time to name a president at Western. I'd been quail hunting and fishing a lot with Mr. Diddle, but I told him I just couldn't get involved in this thing."

But...

"Mr. Diddle was talking to all the board members at Western, trying to line them up for Kelly. And I understand some of them resented his campaigning. Well, I appointed new members to the board—and I understand that Uncle Ed talked to them.

"Yes, I would say Ed Diddle was most solicitous and most helpful in securing the nomination and election of Kelly Thompson as president of Western Kentucky University."

Along the way, as he was remembering what a kind and generous man Ed Diddle was, Thompson had some reminiscences.

He talked about Western Kentucky's emergence into big-time basketball in 1942, the year it was first invited to the National Invitation Tournament, then the prestige tournament in the country.

A Hit in New York

"We lost the championship in the last 10 seconds," Thompson said. "We had upset City College of New York and Creighton, but then lost to West Virginia by two points."

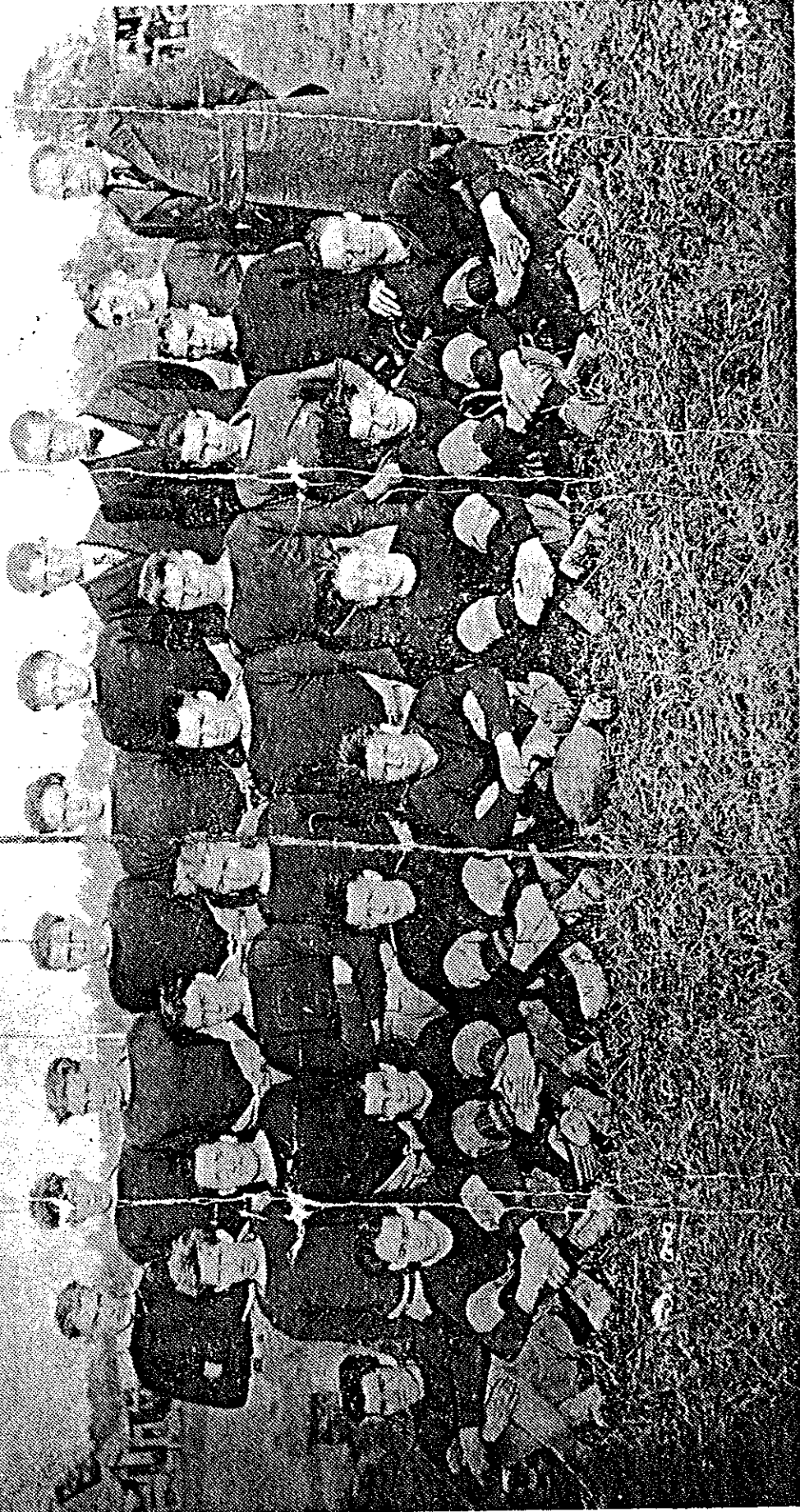
How did Diddle, a farm boy from Gradyville, Ky., get on in New York?

"Well, Ned Irish (the boss of Madison Square Garden) called me just today," Thompson said. "He told me that Mr. Diddle was one of the greatest personalities in all branches of sports that he's ever met.

"Western and Mr. Diddle were always very popular in New York, and I suspect it was because of the reputation they'd built up. He and his boys always put on a show. I mean, they could really play basketball and there was Mr. Diddle throwing that towel to the sky everytime something sensational happened.

"New York took him to heart."

So did most everybody else.



Diddle Greenville's First Football Coach

One of Greenville's earliest football teams was coached by Ed Diddle, former Western Kentucky University basketball coach who died early Friday morning. Standing at right is Dr. Ben Wilson Smock, who helped

start football in Greenville and who secured the services of Diddle as coach. Diddle is standing at the left of Dr. Smock. Standing between the two is Dr. Morris Wilson, Greenville. Photo property of Mr. Jess Moore.

Jan 8, 1970

The Adair County Star



Mr. Diddle with son

EDGAR ALLEN DIDDLE, above pictured with son Eddie, was the victim of a heart attack during the past week. One of Adair County's most illustrious sons, and probably the most famous basketball coach in America, Diddle retains an unequalled spot in the hearts of Adair Countians. A special section on pages 6, 7, and 8 is devoted to Mr. Diddle.

†

Tri-County Sports Figures

Remember Uncle Ed Diddle

The sport's world lost one of its most colorful figures last week when Edgar Allen Diddle passed away on Friday after a bout with the last of several heart attacks. Diddle, basketball coach at Western Kentucky for 42 years, was famous for his red towel and his habit of getting his words mixed up. Despite his antics he still found time to coach 759 victories making him the fourth winningest coach in college history.

A native of Adair Co., Diddle was born near Gradyville on March 12, 1895. He played all sports at Columbia High School and stepped into coaching shortly after he got out

of college. While coaching at Western in 1938-39 his team played Lindsey Wilson College of Columbia. One of Lindsey's players in those days was John Burr and this is how he remembers Ed Diddle. "He could get excited real easily, Burr recalled, but as a coach he was tops. I got to know him later on and we became good friends. I feel as if basketball coaches everywhere have lost a friend."

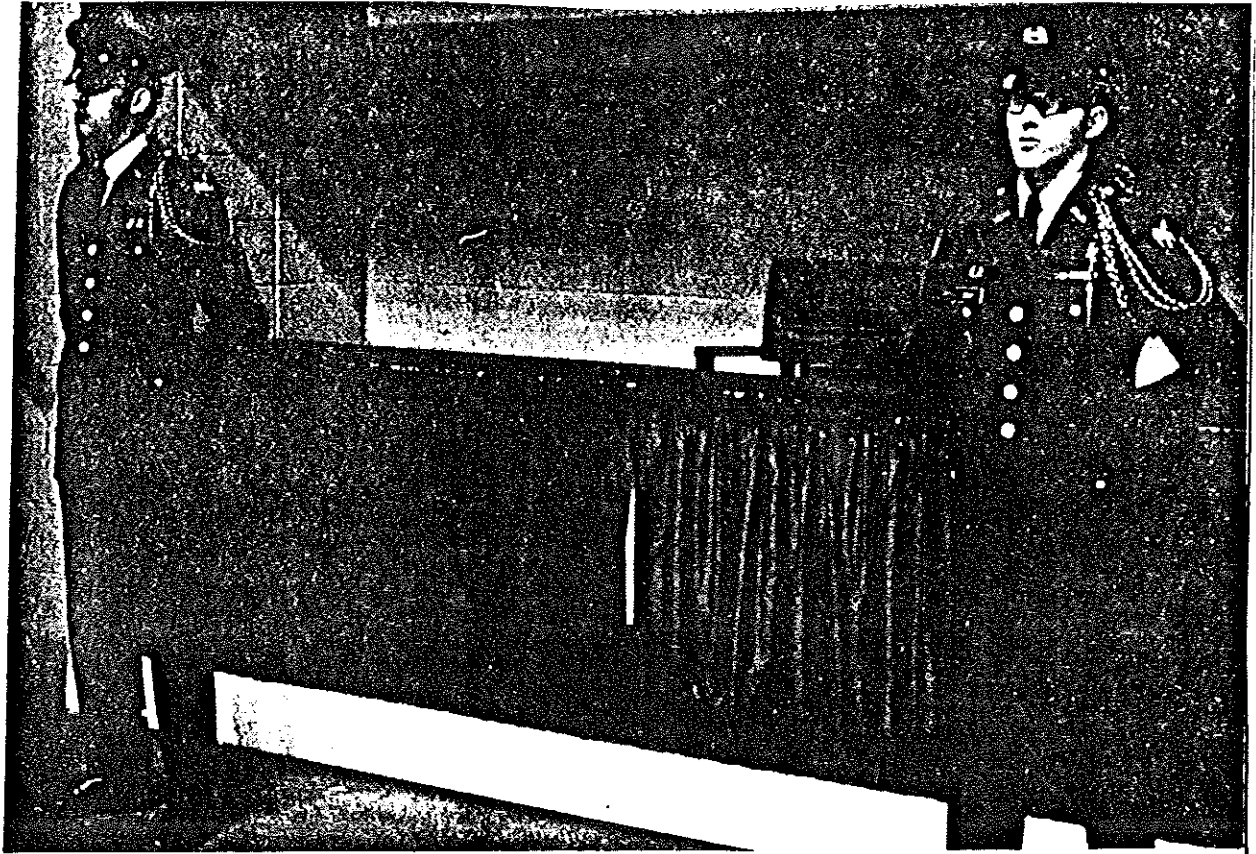
A Tri-County sports figure who knew Diddle in his latter years was Billy B. Smith, basketball coach at Taylor County. "He was a arm personable fellow and he would go out of his way to do some-

thing for you, Smith stated. I'll never forget the time, a couple of years ago, when I went to Bowling Green to watch Eastern and Western play. The arena was crowded and our seats weren't the best, but when Coach Diddle saw me he invited me over to sit in his reserved special box and he and the ushers hunted around until they could find me a chair."



Western Wins

For Uncle Ed Diddle



GUARD OF HONOR from Western's ROTC is posted in front of private box of the late Coach **E** Diddle at Diddle Arena as Hilltoppers opened their Ohio Valley Conference season ~~against~~ Tennessee Tech.

Green River Republican 1/8/70



PRESIDENT EMERITUS of Western, Dr. Kelly Thompson, places wreath in front of booth with empty chair and a red towel like the one which was Diddle's trademark. Funeral for Diddle, who coached Western to 759 basketball victories was held Monday. He was 74.



HONORING WESTERN'S most illustrious sports figure, E. A. Diddle a floral wreath is held by Dean John D. Minton as the university's president, Dero Downing, reads a tribute.

Franklin Farnside
Stanley R. Portmann, Editor

Billy Milliken, Secretary, Treas.

Henry Stone,
Broadcasting And News Director

Coach Diddle Had What He Asked of Men

RETIRED WKU COACH Ed Diddle, the man, died last Friday. But the legend of this colorful coach will live as long as the game of basketball lives.

He began a 42-year basketball coaching career at Western in 1922, starting in a barn-like gym where only a few faithful fans, wearing overcoats and gloves, braved the cold to watch the games. But by the late 1920's, "Coach" was on his way in what was then a big, spacious gym.

He became the first coach to lead his team in 1,000 games, notching along the way 759 wins against 302 losses. When he sidelined himself at the close of the 1963-64 season, only one coach then had a better won-loss record.

Given that bigger floor, Coach Diddle was among the first coaches to start changing basketball style. From a cautious, slow-moving, shoot and retreat game, Diddle changed the style to run, shoot and score and battle for the rebounds at the boards.

Fans loved the excitement of that free-wheeling, firehorse play. Players loved it too. Both fans and players loved Coach Diddle and he loved them.

Back of Coach Diddle's incredible success was an unerring eye for spotting basketball talent and an uncanny ability to get the best out of his players.

He wanted more than size, strength and stamina. To catch Diddle's eye, a player had to have what he called "that other thing." With it, he contended, you can't lose; without it, you can't win.

Despite a soft heart for his athletes—and others as well—Coach Diddle took a hard line, demanding dedication, honesty, and desire. His flashy teams were favorites of fans in national tournaments, in the Sugar Bowl and Orange Bowl classics and in other invitational events.

More than 100 of his proteges are now coaching in high schools, colleges and professional basketball. Two have served as presidents of Western, Dero Downing, president now, and Dr. Kelly Thompson who retired last year. Another, Johnny Oldham, an All-American player under Diddle, is Western's basketball coach.

Coach Diddle's influence spread far beyond the walls of his gym or arena. His dedication and devotion to Western and his unbounded enthusiasm provided one of the moving forces behind the institution's sensational growth—from a normal school of a few hundred to a university of 11,000.

Whether he rubbed shoulders with crowds or mingled with the mighty, Diddle was always himself. He had what he demanded but couldn't define in players—"that other thing." With it he won nationwide fame.

Western Runs and Guns, Wins One for Uncle Ed

By JOHN FLYNN

Courier-Journal & Times Staff Writer

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Western Kentucky University, utilizing superior size, depth and strength, ho-hummed its way to a 99-70 victory over Tennessee Tech before 9,150 fans last night at Diddle Arena.

It was not a joyous Western dressing room following the Ohio Valley Conference opener, however.

"I'm not quite sure what went on out there," admitted Western coach Johnny Oldham, "and frankly, I didn't really care on this night."

Oldham said he still was in a state of

semi-shock following the death on Thursday of E. A. Diddle, the beloved coach who nursed Western's basketball fortunes for 42 years before retiring in 1964.

"I do know we looked terribly out of shape," he said, "but this was to be expected following a seven-day layoff during the holidays."

Won't Go to Boards

Oldham attributed Western's second-half explosion, which turned a pretty good contest into a rout, to a full-court man-to-man press which the Hilltoppers used for the final 20 minutes.

Tennessee Tech coach Connie Inman accepted the execution in good grace.

"They just wore us down," said Inman. "They put it to us on the boards with their depth and pressing defense."

Inman said he was more impressed with the Toppers than a year ago when they went 16-10 and failed to win the OVC championship, although favored in pre-season polls.

"They're playing much better team basketball," he noted, "and their pressure defense hurts. They may not keep you from getting a good shot, but they're always there, clawing and bothering you."

Seven-footer Jim McDaniels led Western's second-half surge with 19 points and finished the evening with 30. Tennessee Tech's seven-footer, Art Bosnak, played McDaniels fairly even in the first half, but fired visibly after the intermission.

"He wore out, no doubt about it," said Inman.

Oldham was not particularly impressed with McDaniels' board work, however. "It's just not his game to go to the boards," said Oldham. "If someone would tell me why, I'd pay 'em a pretty good salary."

Jerome Perry pitched in 17 points, Jim Rose had 12 and Danny Johnson 10 as Western recorded its seventh victory in nine starts. Tech, which dropped to 4-3 on the year, was led by Bosnak's 18 points.

Honor Guard Stands Watch

In memory of Diddle, who as much as put up the first peach basket at Western, an ROTC honor guard stood watch over his red-bedecked booth at the end of the court and a wreath was placed in the center of it.

Uncle Ed would have smiled had he seen Western's first basket of the game — a fire-engine fast break with Jerome Perry on the end of it. This was Diddle's game, Run and gun.

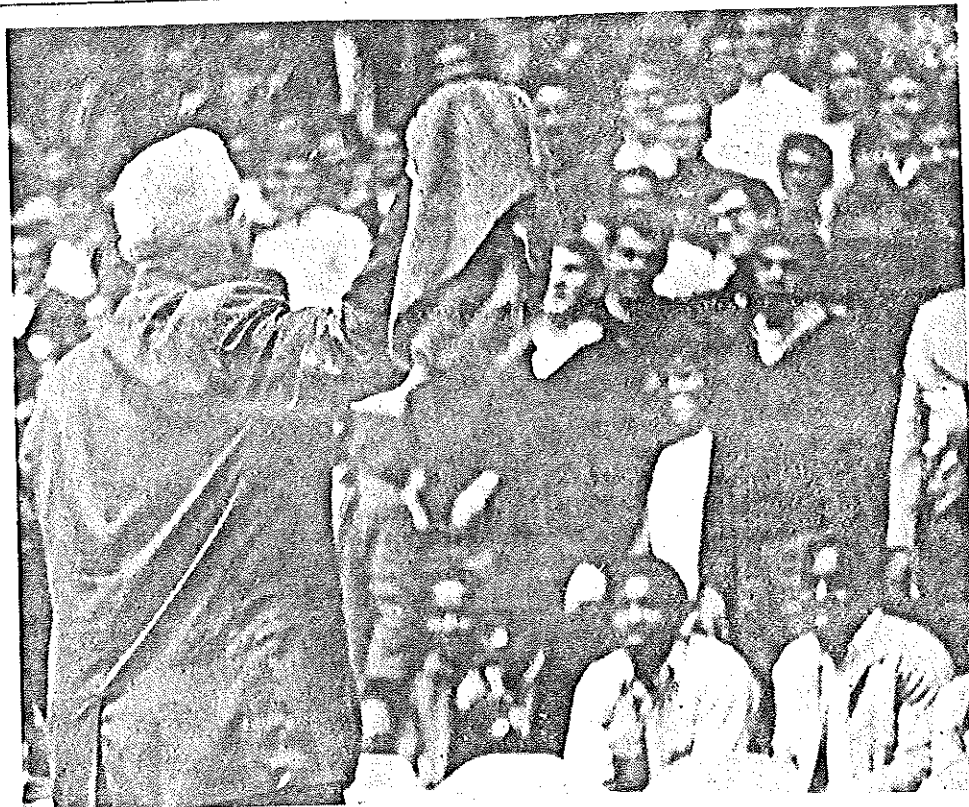
Following this auspicious start, Western settled into a less spectacular pattern of play in which it threatened to run Tech back to the border, but never quite accomplished it in the opening half due to ball-handling errors and defensive lapses.

Western nevertheless hung up a 46-38 lead at the intermission on the strength of its superior shooting, connecting on 20 of 40 attempts from the floor for 50 per cent and beating back every Tech challenge with the best weapon available — a basket or two.

The Toppers momentarily puzzled Tech toward the end of the half with a trap defense, but after the visitors woke up to it, they beat it for fast-break baskets on two occasions.

WESTERN 99				TENNESSEE TECH 70			
Player	FG	FT	TP	Player	FG	FT	TP
McDaniels	13	4-4	30	Bland	1	0-0	2
Perry	8	1-1	17	Sutton	2	5-7	9
Rose	8	2-3	12	Bosnak	7	4-6	18
Glover	3	2-4	8	Schweizman	1	3-6	5
Bright	1	0-0	2	Slone	3	1-4	7
Banks	1	0-0	2	Furlong	2	2-2	6
Sundmacher	4	2-2	10	Chapman	4	3-4	11
Johnson	4	2-4	10	Carmichael	2	3-4	7
Eaton	2	2-2	6	Kovach	2	1-2	5
Totals	41	17-22	99	Totals	24	22-35	70

Halftime—Western 46-38.
Attendance—9,150.



Franklin Favorite
1-8-70

Staff photo by Dave West

Farewell to Western

WESTERN'S NO. 1 citizen, coach and oft-times cheerleader — Uncle Ed Diddle — is shown leading the Hill-topper cheering section with his famous red towel during a basketball game in

Diddle Arena in 1967. Edgar Allen Diddle, one of basketball's great coaches who retired in 1964, died Friday at the age of 74. For tributes to Mr. Diddle see pages A-2 and B-4.

ED DIDDLE

Wayne Smith remembers how Mr. Diddle helped him at Western

Mr. Diddle's life was devoted to helping young men. This was one of the things he enjoyed most.

I'll always be grateful for the help that he gave me when I was a student at Western. He gave me a room in his "Diddle Dorm" and he got me several odd jobs.

Mr. Diddle had a soft spot in his heart for Adair County. He was proud to be a native. He really enjoyed talking about the many friends he had in Columbia and the county.

He helped several athletes from Adair County and I know all these fellows had the highest respect for him. He was

more than a coach to them—he was their father away from home.

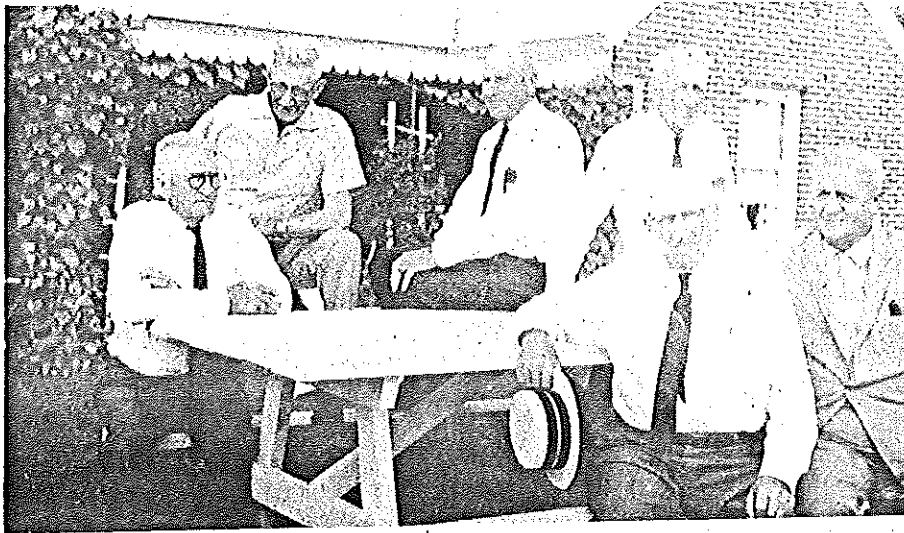
I had the pleasure of playing under Mr. Diddle and the thing, in my

opinion, that made him a winner was he treated his athletes as individuals, consequently his men had this burning desire to go all out for him. When you lost, he lost and when you won Mr. Diddle and all the team would rejoice.

There have been many humorous things said about Mr. Diddle and there is one that he made to us in practice one day that still makes me laugh. We were practicing baseball and there were several of us standing out in left field talking and all of a sudden we heard Mr. Diddle yell, "Time! Time! You boys out there in left field, scatter out. If lightning strikes all of you will be killed! Scatter out."

Adair County has truly lost a friend but his memories will last forever here in this county.

Wayne N. Smith



DIDDLE-WALKER FAMILY REUNION—Summer, 1959, at home of John Lee Walker in Columbia. From left, John Lee Walker, Jim Diddle, Doc Walker, Will Diddle, Allen Walker, and Ed Diddle.

Rep. Durham eulogized Diddle

The following resolution paying respect to Adair County native Ed Diddle has been introduced in the state legislature by Representative O.A. Durham, Columbia, and Representative Ed Brown, Bowling Green:

RESOLUTION of RESPECT

WHEREAS, Edgar Allen Diddle, who departed this life on 2 January 1970, was a native of Adair County, Kentucky, and at his death and for many years thereto, a resident of Warren County, Kentucky, now be it resolved that we, O.A. Durham and Edward G. Brown, Representatives of the counties aforesaid, do hereby present to the Commonwealth of Kentucky House of Representatives in Legislature assembled that the said Edgar Allen Diddle did during his long tenure as head basketball coach of Western Kentucky University bring national prominence and renown to the school and to the state, was a kindly man, a good friend, and a true and honored son of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Be it further resolved that this resolution be spread on the Journal of the Legislature and a copy of same be sent to the Kentucky Senate and to his family.

Done at Frankfort this----- day of January, 1970.

O.A. DURHAM
Representative 28th District

EDWARD G. BROWN
Representative 21st District



FRESH CRISP

LETTUCE
CELERY
RED GRAPES
POTATOES
YELLOW ON
APPI FC

8 The Columbia, Ky., STATESMAN, Thursday, January 8, 1970



ED DIDDLE, repleat with famous red towel, in front of arena named in his honor.

GREATER VALUES SHOP AT

BUCHEN'S
MARKETS ★

PRICE CHANGES UNTIL MARKETS CHANGE—

19c

19c

10c

FRESH SEMI-BONELESS

PORK

ROAST
FROM BOSTON
BUTT

HI-BRAND CUBED

RFFF

STEAKS

16 OZ.

65c lb

89c

EMGE CHIEF SLICED

BACON

LB.
PKG.

89c

REDEEM
COUPON FOR
EXTRA S & H
GREEN STAMPS

FIELD DINNER

FRANKS

2 LB.
PKG.

\$1.33

REDEEM COUPON FOR

SPORTS by L. ORTMANN



Edgar Allen Diddle 1-8-70



Uncle Ed pictured in 1967

THE MAN who had "that other thing"--Western's beloved Edgar Allen (Uncle Ed) Diddle --died last Friday at the age of 74.

Uncle Ed, who enjoyed unparalleled success as one of the nation's great basketball coaches, was so blessed full of what he liked to call "that other thing" that he left far more than just a basketball record to his memory.

To Coach Diddle, "that other thing" was the undefined quality that transformed an individual, or a team, from the mediocre into the great. Mr. Diddle practiced what he preached in many ways, touching those in all walks of life.

The world "that is right" will sorely miss the warmth and the great ability that was Edgar Allen Diddle.

(For another tribute to Mr. Diddle see L. L. Valentine's editorial on page 4-B).

'Our' Boys

CONGRATULATIONS TO "our" boys. Elsewhere on the sports pages are stories paying tribute to two Franklin-Simpson High School graduates who are continuing to succeed in athletics and academics on the college level. They, too, are in dedicated pursuit of "that other thing."

Also received this week was a progress report on F-S grad Steve Smith, a member of the freshman basketball team for Texas Tech at Lubbock. Big Steve, who played the middle for last year's Wildcats on the rugged road to the Region 4 Championship and a trip to the State Tournament, is the starting center for the Red Raider frosh this season.

The team has posted a 2-1 record to date with the 6-7

—Continued to 3-A—

Ed Diddle: *Adair Co. 1-8-70* Local Boy Made Good

by Jim Fudge

The local boy who finally made it to the top--that was Ed Diddle, ex-Western Kentucky coach.

Edward Allen Diddle was born on March 12, 1895, in Gradyville. His parents, Mary Elizabeth (Hughes) and John Diddle were proud of their son like all parents would be. Proud, even though they had no idea what the future would hold for him.

Ed Diddle was always well liked, as a child, and as a competitive coach. He was always interested in athletics from his youngest days.

The late coach spent his early years in Adair county and Columbia. He attended grade school in Gradyville, and later attended high school at Columbia High School. A quiet person, Ed Diddle had many friends in Columbia and Adair County. Quiet, but still a fun-loving boy, he pulled his share of practical jokes while in school.

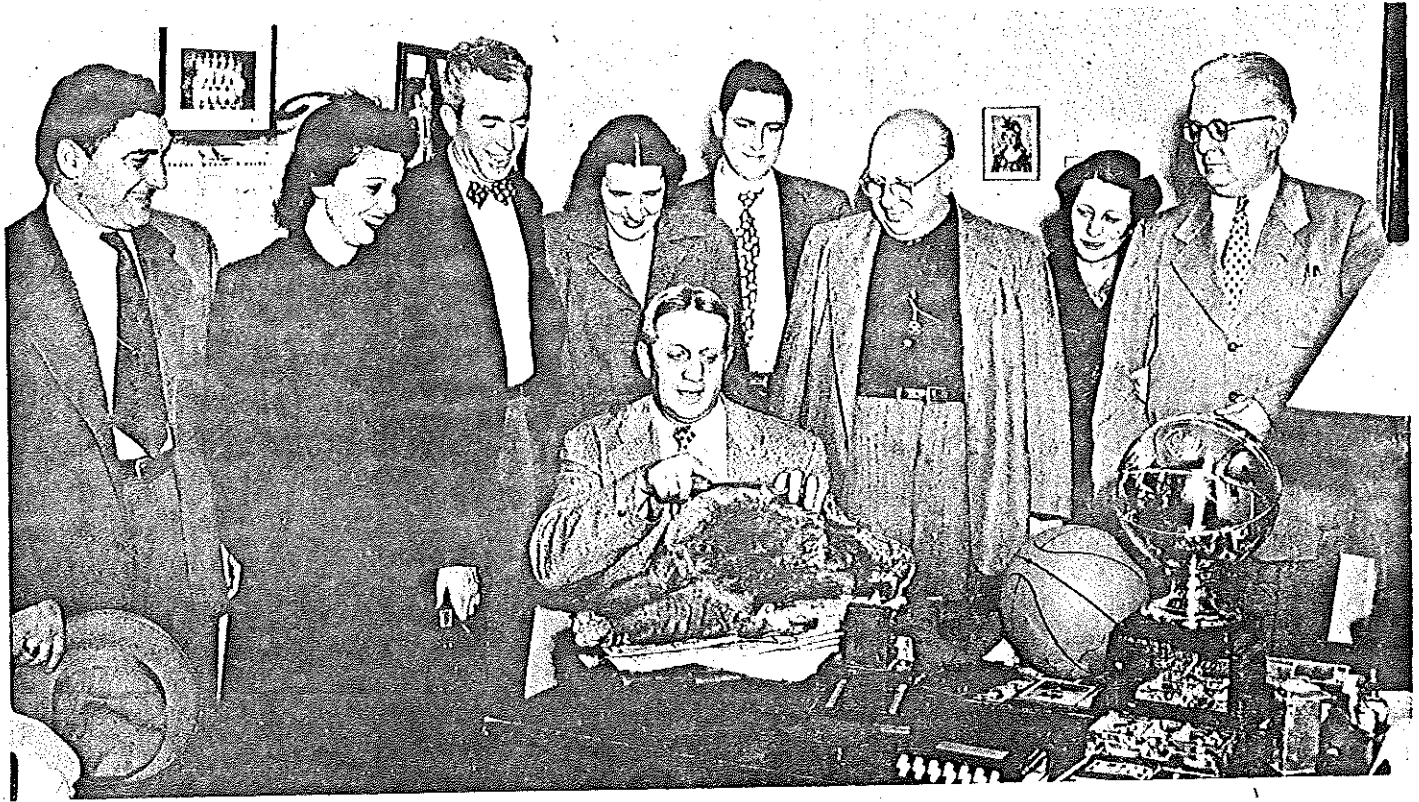
Ed came from a prosperous family, but that still didn't stop his drive, or spoil him. He went to church regularly, and enjoyed life as any youngster of his

age would.

Ed Diddle left Adair county in 1915 when he graduated from high school and began at Centre College. There, he became a member of the "Praying Colonels" football team. In 1919 he was a member of their unbeaten basketball team.

From then on, Ed Diddle was on the road up. Beginning his coaching career in Monticello, his career continued to spiral upwards, until he became one of the more victorious coaches in College basketball history.

Adair County can be proud of the native son that went on to become one of the best known and best loved coaches of all time. His death was a shocking blow to friends and relatives, but they can proudly look back and say what a great man he was, and what a great inspiration he will be to others.



IN JANUARY, 1950, an Adair County group of basketball fans presented Coach Diddle with a 40 pound Adair County ham in appreciation of his always securing seats for anyone from his home county. From left, they are Dr. J.C. Salato, Mrs. Salato, Charlie Clift, Mrs. Clift, Pete Walker, Cotton Durham, Mrs. N.A. Mercer, and Dr. Mercer.

°ED DIDDLE Adair Countians remember Uncle Ed with great fondness

I have known Ed Diddle since he came to Columbia to go to the Columbia High School. We played three years on the high school basketball team together. He was a leader and playmaker of our team and was liked by all. He always conducted himself in the highest standards.

I have followed his life through the years and he continued his high standards throughout his coaching years.

I always like to think of Ed as the "Will Rogers" of basketball.

John D. Lowe, Jr.

Ed Diddle was the inspiration to all athletes who attended Western. Regardless of the sport he was the team's greatest fan. He never missed an opportunity to sell Western wherever he went.

Last year he beamed with pride while showing me around the Diddle Arena—a

fitting monument to the man who gave the school national prominence.

Dr. James C. Salato

I remember in Miss Nave's class Ed and I were sitting together. Miss Nave asked, "Edgar, what was the Renaissance?" Ed punched me and said, "What is it?" I replied, "It is a new birth, I reckon."

"Birth of what?"

"Chillens, I reckon."

Clay Smith

SPORTS

Sunday, Jan. 11, 1970 Page 1-D

Here's How

By CHUCK WHITLOCK

Diddle Wanted It

Western Kentucky played Tennessee Tech in a basketball game recently. There had been a brief move not to play the game as scheduled, since Ed Diddle, who won 759 games in 42 years as Western Kentucky coach, died the day before the game was to be played.

But it was Diddle's wish, expressed the day he died, that the game be played on schedule. Western Kentucky president Dero Downing placed a wreath at the box which Diddle had occupied since his retirement five years ago.

Ed Diddle was one of the great legendary coaches of American basketball and some of his duels with other coaches were masterpieces. But he was equally well known in other ways.

Man Of Odd Words

Ed Diddle was described once by Dave Kindred of the Louisville Times as a lovable man who had some trouble with figures and words.

For instance, when a fan told him one of his players could "hit a million" from a certain spot, the excited Diddle replied, "A million? My gosh, he could hit a thousand!"

And there is the time when Diddle, in awe of former Louisville center Fred Sawyer, once exclaimed, "Why he must be 6-foot-13 or 14, at least."

Diddle had to chew a player out once. "By the time I got done," he said, "he had tears as big as my cheek running down his fingers."

Exasperated because a player insisted on running around a screen instead of up the middle, Diddle asked him, "Do you know anything about physics?" "A little," the player said. "Then what's the straightest line between two points?"

Edgar Allen Diddle

1895-1970

FROM THE COLUMBIA STATESMAN

1-15-70

Born at Gradyville, he
attended Columbia High—and
went out to become
America's most famous coach



by N.M. Berley

Ed Diddle was always a part of his native Adair County. After 1915 he was back only as a visitor but he kept strong home ties with us and we loved him for it. Whenever you talked to him he inquired about numerous friends here—from his childhood to former Western students.

He was born March 12, 1895, on a farm near Gradyville, and was the fourth of the sons of John Hoskins Diddle and his wife, Mary Elizabeth "Molly" Hughes.

On the adjoining farm lived John Diddle's sister, Ann Elizabeth, her husband James Walker and their five sons and two daughters. The Diddle and Walker children were inseparable and

the stories they tell of escapades and of practical jokes played on one another are innumerable and entertaining.

The boys had a reputation of escaping unscathed from any situation. Mrs. Diddle, when son George fell under the wheels of a log wagon, was not amused when her brother asked if the wheels were hurt! They were not, nor was George. The mud and rocks in the road had protected him.

MILDRED WALKER remembers she frequently had to sit by Ed at school at Gradyville. He told her jokes while hidden behind his book. She always laughed and was reprimanded. He looked very innocent and went

unpunished.

On October 20, 1907, Edgar Allen Diddle joined the Big Creek Cumberland Presbyterian Church. In 1918, his membership was transferred.

About 1913, the Diddle family moved to Logan County, Kentucky, and the Walkers came to Columbia. Ed stayed in Columbia with his aunt and her family and continued as a student at the Columbia High School. Here began his active career in athletics.

When he left for graduation in 1915, he made a decided point of explaining to his Aunt Ann Lizzie that he had been most careful in separating his belongings from those of the Walker boys. The next Sunday Doc Walker, dressing for church, could not find his best shirt and socks. His mother did not agree. Ed had been too explicit—but Doc knew his Sunday best had been deliberately appropriated to inconvenience him! A highly indignant letter brought them back.

ED DIDDLE entered Centre College in the fall of 1915. Here he played both football and basketball.

While at Centre he was always kind to those from Columbia. He saw to it that Lenora Lowe, attending Kentucky College for Women there, had a season football ticket. Later, when Allene Montgomery was at KCW, he was her self appointed guardian.

THE FRAZIER FAMILY of Columbia was living in Danville at this

time and Ed was a frequent visitor in their home. Betty and Eva Frazier, though young, remember his visits for he was always ready to play with them.

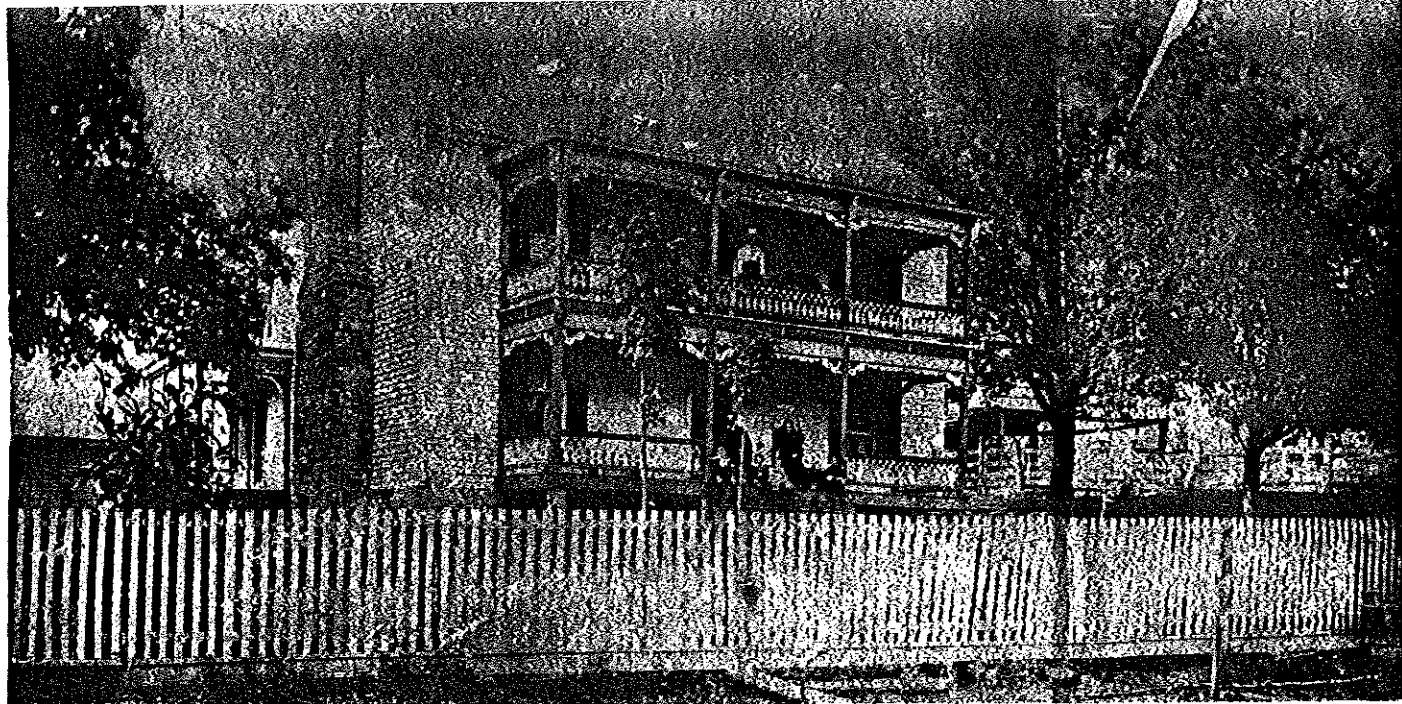
During World War I he took time off from school to serve in the Navy. He afterwards returned to Centre where he graduated in 1920.

While he was in Danville I went to my sister's graduation. One afternoon he took me to the Palace of Sweets, a college hangout. Several members of the football team were there, among them Red Roberts, Bo McMillan, and Hump Tanner. Ed set me up on the counter and marched the team by and one by one introduced me to them as his sweetheart. I was too stuck up to speak to my family when he took me back to the hotel.

In the summer of 1920 he was in Columbia as the manager of the Chautauqua. The tent that year was on the lot back of the Presbyterian Church. He was particularly kind in enlisting his young friends when children's parts were called for in the acts.

That fall he started his coaching career. After he went to Western he loved to see people from Adair County at the games and most of the time they ended as his guests.

He married Louise Monin of Glendale, Kentucky. Through the years Louise Diddle, a warm-hearted gracious lady has become a part of Adair County, too.



THE DIDDLE HOME, near Gradyville, where Ed was born. Picture taken around turn of century. The house still stands on the Taft and Brack Coomer farm. †

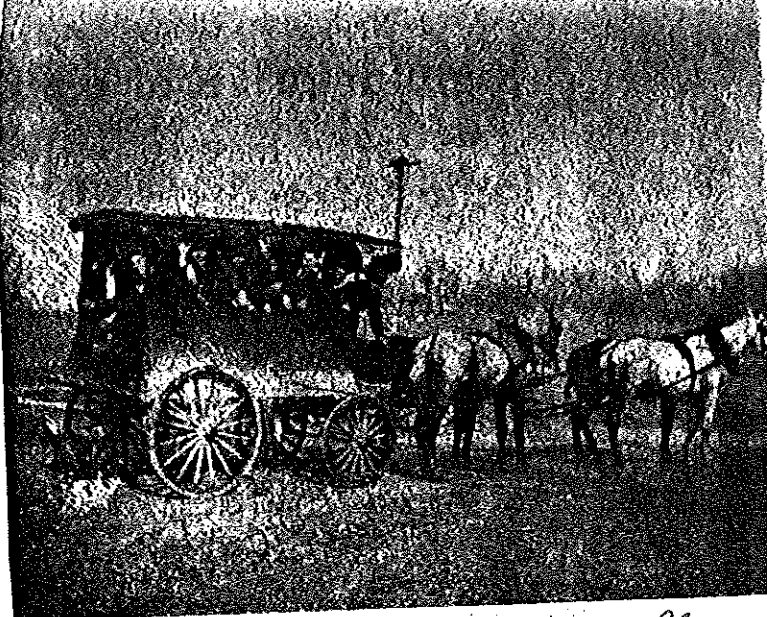
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THE DIDDLE BOYS—front, Ed, George, and Jim; back, Will and Charley. †



SOME COLUMBIA FRIENDS—From left, Paul Hughes, Leonora Lowe, Mary Williams, and Ed Diddle.



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THE 1914 COLUMBIA HIGH basketball team played Monticello High School on February 22.

The above picture was taken at a rest stop at Montpelier.

The team left Columbia about 11:00 a.m. on the 21st and spent the night at Jamestown, arriving in Monticello in the afternoon of the second day.

At the start of the trip the boys walked up the hills to save the horses. At the end they were walking down hill also.

Monticell won—the long walk had taken its toll of the travelers.



THE 1915 COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL basketball team. Front row, from left, John Dunbar, Lawrence Antle, Ed Diddle, Chelcie Barger, and Alvin Lewis.

Second row, seated, John D. Lowe, Jr., Shreve Davis and Clay Smith.

Back row, standing, James Herriford; kneeling, Henry Hancock, Paul Blair, Rex Holladay, and Paul Hamilton; and standing, Banks Hancock.

The coach and principal of the Columbia High School was W.M. Wilson.

He was famous, but he never forgot Schochoh, Corinth. . . He was

they got there early, my father, gentleman that he was, could hardly refuse to let me help entertain my guests and therefore I didn't have to go to the field with him to work that afternoon.

WE SCATTERED out to various schools, marrying etc., and the next time I remember talking to Ed was on a train coming down from Bowling Green. He got on there and came and sat with me to Russellville and said he was going to be the basketball coach at Greenville that winter.

He said, "You know, I've always been a football and baseball player, but now I'm going to be a basketball coach."

The last year that Buck Sydnor played, Ed Price and I decided to take our two boys, Ed Jr. and Buddy, to see Buck and Western play. Western was already famous and we might have known we couldn't get in, but we went anyway and soon found out there were no seats or standing room available.

We were wandering around the old gym when we saw a lighted window and through it saw Ed sitting in his office.

After a lot of soul searching, we tapped on the window and Ed came to the door. He remembered us, took us into his office and went over to his apple basket and gave us an apple apiece. We told him the boys had never seen a good basketball game and we wanted to see Buck play, so after a while he said, "Wait right here."

He left, and when he came back, he took us out on the floor where he had placed folding chairs for us behind one of the goals, right in the way of everybody, I guess.

He then went up in the stands and helped seat the crowd.

After that, he went out and brought in his basketball team and his red towel.

Just a few years ago our grand-daughter was a student there. He found out who she was and stopped her one day and told her out of a clear blue sky "I know you, you are Cleo Ballance's grand-daughter."

Lots of times now I think how fortunate I've been to have known and still know people who are and have been real folks. As we all grow older and memories perhaps become clearer, it is nice to have a few memories of people like our old neighbor Ed Diddle.



THE DIDDLE TOUCH . . . The memory of Ed Diddle, Western Kentucky University's great coach, lives on. Western's cheerleaders keep a red towel handy to stir the hill-toppers spirit. The red towel was a Diddle trademark.



Chronicler Of Corinth Maurice Linton Recalls Ed Diddle

CORINTH CORRESPONDENT Maurice Linton fondly remembers when Western University's loved basketball coach was a young man living in Logan County. And Uncle Ed never forgot Logan County. See the column, "Corinthians" -- this week on the sports page, Page A-5. -- Photo by Henry White.

By Maurice Linton

MANY PEOPLE of high and low degree have memories of the late Ed Diddle.

Sometime around the years before World War I, the Diddles bought and moved to a farm in the Schochoh Community, where they lived for a few years.

Mr. Diddle loved to play checkers, and so did my father-in-law, Mr. Henry Ballance, so many a day Mr. Diddle would come to the store at Corinth. If he got there early they played all day.

The boys, Charlie, and Jim and Ed, liked to play anything, especially baseball and tennis. We had two tennis courts here then. The Ballance girls had one, and I had one, and many and many a day the Diddle boys would drive up just before one o'clock in the afternoon to play tennis. We had no understanding about it, but I think they knew that if

Library News, Reviews

New Book Includes Chapter By Diddle

By POLLY W. BOAZ

A particularly appropriate memorial book has been added to the Bowling Green Public Library collection.

The book was ordered as a possible memorial for Coach E.A. Diddle. When it arrived it had as its first chapter "The Offensive Fundamentals in Basketball" written by Mr. Diddle, himself. The title of the book, *Championship Basketball by 12 Great Coaches*, is indicative of the material contained in this book, which was compiled and edited by Hardin McLane.

Two other books that were placed in the library as memorials for Mr. Diddle are "Best of Basketball from the Coaching Clinic" and "The Glory of Their Times," "The Story of the Early Days of Basketball," edited by Lawrence Ritter.

In addition to these memorials for Mr. Diddle, several other memorial books have been added during the week. Memorials are interesting in that they reflect the attitudes of the living toward the deceased. For example, Dr. L. O. Johnson's interest in sports is the thing about him that two people remembered as is shown in the books, "Winners Never Quit," by Pepe and "Horses of the world," by Goodall. Phil Palmer's interest in aviation and air service is seen in the selection of "1001 Questions Answered about Aviation History", by Hildreth and Nalty as a memorial for him.

Ladies often have home making and gardening books placed as memorials for them. Two such books were placed in the library for Mrs. Ida Thomina Spears. One, "Houses Virginians Have Loved", is a very attractive book filled with illustrations of some of the beautiful homes of Virginia. The other, "House and Garden's New Cookbook", is equally attractive in its own way, with many good recipes and several color illustrations.

Dr. Lee T. Garrott was observed in his church work by several people. The National Geographic book, "Everyday Life in Bible Times," reflects this interest of Dr. Garrott's.

Dr. Lee F. Jones was seen as a religious man and as a mystery enthusiast by two different people. One placed Elizabeth Goudge's "A Diary of Prayer" as a memorial for him; the other,

"The Most of P. G. Wodehouse."

Five other memorials that have been placed in the library this week reflect one of the interests of the honorees. These books include "Guide to Western Architecture", by Gloag, for Bill Price; "European Porcelain", by Bacci, for Mrs. Callie Simpson Bruce; "Fishing Made Easy", by Cone, for W.S. Dollar; "Charles Dickens", by Haines, for Mrs. George McCombs; and "Learning to Ride, Hunt and Show," by Wright, for Grover Britt.

What better way to be remembered than through a book? What better memories to build than good books? Visit the library at 1225 State Street or the bookmobile as it makes its way through the county and city and start to build memories.

DEAN EAGLE

Oldham recalls playing UK in 1948 exhibitions

ATHENS, Ga. — How's that again? Kentucky never met Western Kentucky University before last night?

Officially, that's right but coach Johnny Oldham of Western recalls the spring of 1948.

Kentucky had won the NCAA title and was waiting for the Olympics in London.

"I think our Western Kentucky group played them twice for the Olympic fund," said Oldham. "Besides me, there were Odle Spears, Dea Gibson, Charley Parsley, Orin McKinney, Carlisle Towery and Don Ray. They beat us twice but I don't remember the scores."

Oldham also recalled that Kentucky had Alex Groza, Ralph Beard, Wallace Jones, Ken Rollins and Cliff Barker—the Fabulous Five.

The informal games were at Owensboro and Lexington. Somebody thought that another game might have been played in Louisville but Oldham couldn't remember.

"At Lexington, we played at the trotting track. There were 15,000 to 20,000 people," said Oldham. "I remember the crowd."

Oldham said he wouldn't object to a Kentucky-Western series.

"I'm certain it could be worked out at a neutral site like Louisville, where we'd have no trouble attracting a capacity crowd. I know such a series has never been seriously considered in my seven years at Western."

Coach Adolph Rupp of UK said he recalled a statement by Uncle Ed Diddle 12 or 13 years ago.

"He said, 'I'm doing all right, Adolph is doing all right and I don't see any reason why we should fight among ourselves.'"

And then Rupp got mad at a dinner for writers and coaches: "Now, damn it, let's get off this subject and talk about some basketball. That's what we're here for."

It's easy to get off the subject of Kentucky meeting Western in basketball but Diddle-isms keep projecting themselves, especially around tournament time when nostalgia reaches its heights.

A classic Diddle story

A roundtable of writers and coaches has debated at length as to whether Diddle or Nick Denes, former Western football coach, was the worst driver of an

automobile—or best, depending on which way you look at it.

Jim Pickens, baseball coach at Western, and a longtime friend and associate of the revered Diddle, told the best story about the former Western coach.

"I think it was at a tournament three or four years ago at Vanderbilt," said Pickens. "Uncle Ed told me he was feeling mighty bad with diarrhea. I carried him into a little room and put him on a table and he said to give him a wet towel. I put the towel over his face with only his nose showing. Then, I went down to see how the ball game was coming. It had just started."

"When I came back about 40 or 45 minutes later," Pickens related, "Uncle Ed was sitting on the table, perked up, and said he felt great again. And he told me how quiet and mannerly those players from Army were at the half."

The Army team had used the room at halftime and Pickens said he wondered what the Cadets thought with Mr. Diddle there hidden under the towel.

Storywise, the legendary Diddle is a hard man to follow. Rupp will be too.

Oldham was concerned about Jim McDaniels' sore throat and broken right thumb.

"We got back from South Bend Sunday and McDaniels drives to Scottsville and plays basketball all afternoon with his kinfolk and neighbors," said Oldham. "That's when he got sick."

Spivey still avid UK fan

Bill Spivey, the original 7-footer and hero of Kentucky's 1951 NCAA title, flew down from Louisville for the tournament. He still feels strongly toward UK and warned about how it would stop McDaniels.

Spivey's biggest thrill wasn't the 1951 NCAA but a regular season game between UK and Kansas in which he and 6-10 Clyde Lovelette were matched.

"I never was so high for a game," said Spivey. "Coach Rupp had me psyched to a hilt and I never played harder. We beat them 68-39."

Spivey's biggest difficulty now is finding a bed long enough to sleep in and an automobile that will accept gracefully his 7-foot frame that has put on a little weight since his playing days.

"I just can't say too much for Rupp as a coach," said Spivey.

Cowier, J.
March 19,
1971

BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME

Naismith Memorial

LEE WILLIAMS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BOX 175 · HIGHLAND STATION · 460 ALDEN STREET
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 01109
TELEPHONE: (413) 781-6500

January 11, 1972

Mr. John Oldham
Director of Athletics
Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101

Dear John:

It is with the greatest of pleasure that I write to advise you your late, great Coach, Ed Diddle, has been elected to the Basketball Hall of Fame. He will be enshrined posthumously of course, on Thursday, April 20, 1972, during which his Honors Court plaque will be unveiled at 3:00 p.m. and that evening at the Enshrinement Dinner his representative will receive his Enshrinement awards.

The news media announcement of the 1971 Class of Electees will be made on February 6. Please keep this confidential in every way until at least that day.

Now, for several questions which I hope you will be able to assist us with:

1. Is Mrs. Diddle still alive and, if so, would she come to Springfield April 19 and 20? In addition, are there any members of the family near enough who might be able to come?
2. Will you and/or members of your department and University staff be coming?
3. Who will be acting as the official representative for Coach Diddle to be at the head table to reply in his behalf and to receive the awards?

If Mrs. Diddle is living, please furnish her address so that we can write directly to her. Meantime, it is with great pleasure we advise you of Coach Diddle's election, for now indeed his immortality is assured. We hope that all of Kentucky will be happy when they learn of his election.

Sincerely,

Lee Williams
LEE WILLIAMS
fv

With 6 Other Giants

Diddle Enshrined In Cage Hall Of Fame

By BERT BORRONE
Daily News Sports Editor.

The late Ed Diddle, for 42 years head basketball coach at Western, was inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame at Springfield, Mass., last night.

Also inducted were six other giants of the sport.

They are:

—UCLA coach Johnny Wooden, has been installed formerly as a player.

—Bob Douglas, former coach of the Renaissance Negro team.

—Paul Endacott, early star at Kansas.

—Mas Friedman, a promoter in the sport's infancy.

—Ed Gottlieb, former owner of the Philadelphia Warriors.

—Cliff Wells, former coach at Tulane.

Diddle ranks fourth in the all-time list of coaches who have won the most games.

Wooden is the only basketball figure to be honored twice.

He had already been recognized a star player for Purdue.

But because of his unprecedented accomplishments as a coach, including six straight national championships at UCLA and eight in the last nine years, the Hall of Fame directors voted him dual recognition.

Travis Grant of Kentucky State received the Joe Lapchick Trophy from The Basketball News as result of being named the top senior college player of the year.

The Frances Pomeroy award, given to the nation's best player under six feet, went to Scott Martin of Oklahoma.

National Basketball Assn. commissioner Walter Kennedy told the celebrities present that "Guys who couldn't even sign your shoes are trying to run the game today".

Kennedy later told newsmen he was referring to owners, general managers, coaches and players.

He said, in contrast, "the Bob Douglasses, the Johnny Woodens and the Adolph Rupps have given a lifetime to basketball".

Tribute Set For Diddle

By BERT BORRONE

Daily News Sports Editor

Western will recognize the election of its former basketball coach, the late Ed Diddle, to the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame prior to tomorrow night's game with Eastern Kentucky.

Western's president, Dr. Dero G. Downing, who was an outstanding guard on some of Diddle's top teams in the early 1940s, will voice the university's tribute.

Members of Diddle's family, including his wife, son Eddie Jr. and daughter Mrs. James Phillips, are expected to be present.

Diddle, whose Western teams posted a 759-302 record over 42 seasons prior to his retirement in 1964, is one of six men recently elected to the Hall of Fame, located at Springfield (Mass.) College, where Dr. James Naismith founded the game.

The other electees for this year include former playing greats

Continued Page 9
Column 5, This Section

Tribute

Continued from page 8
Paul Endacott of Kansas University and pro star Max Friedman, ex-coaches Cliff Wells and Robert L. Douglas and pro club owner Eddie Gottlieb.

Among many other honors which have come Diddle's way, he was already a member of the Helms Athletic Foundation Hall of Fame.

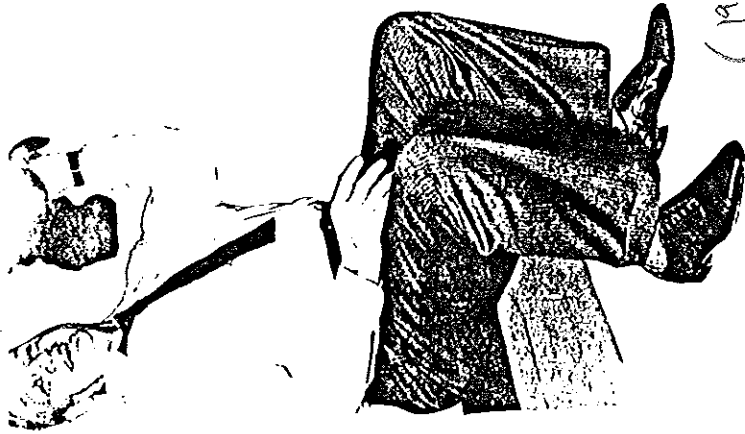
His Western teams won a total of 32 championships in the Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and the Ohio Valley Conference.

His 759 coaching victories is the fourth highest total of all time, surpassed only by Kentucky's Adolph Rupp, Kansas' Phog Allen and Oklahoma State's Hank Iba — all fellow Hall of Famers.

Diddle's teams won 20 or more games in 18 different seasons, including a streak of 10 straight from 1934 to 1943.

He took his team to 11 national post-season tournaments, including eight trips to the NIT and three to the NCAA tourney.

He coached 13 players who earned All-America recognition and 16 who went on to successful careers in the professional ranks.



(1973
brochure)

Mr. Diddle and how it all began



Western Kentucky University's red towel tradition originated with the late E. A. Diddle—former Hilltopper coach, one of basketball's revered legends, and a member of both the Naismith and Helms Athletic Foundation Halls of Fame.

Through 1,062 Hilltopper basketball games—759 of them victories, the fourth highest total ever for a coach—Diddle clutched a red towel in his hands. He kept it there as he guided his teams to 32 championships in three different conferences, as he developed 13 All-Americans and 16 professional players, as he took his team to 11 national post-season tournaments (eight times to the NIT and three times to the NCAA), and as he led Western to 18 seasons in which it won 20 or more games.

He chewed on it, threw it in exultation, cried on it during the rare moments when things didn't go

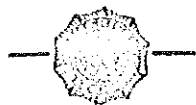
right, waved it at fans and used it to signal to his players.

The red towel became synonymous with Ed Diddle . . . and Ed Diddle became synonymous with Western's winning athletic tradition. For years it has been traditional for fans at every Hilltopper sporting event to wave red towels as they cheer for the "Big Red." When a Western team goes on the road, fans fly red towels from their automobiles as they make their way to the site of the game. No real Hilltopper fan would be caught without his red towel!

Coach Diddle passed away in 1970 at the age of 74, but his memory will live as long as a red towel waves on the Western campus. And red towels will wave there as long as the Hilltoppers compete in intercollegiate athletics.

The American Legion

of Kentucky, Inc.



For God and Country

* DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS * P. O. BOX 2123 * LOUISVILLE, KY. 40201 * 502-537-1414 *

February 3, 1975

REF:R-374-75

Mrs. E.A. Diddle, Sr.,
1529 State Street,
College Heights,
Bowling Green, Ky. 42101

Dear Mrs. Riddle:

It is my pleasure to advise that, on my recommendation, the Department (State) Executive Committee of the Kentucky American Legion in meeting assembled at Louisville, January 24-25 awarded posthumously to your late husband, "Uncle Ed" the 1975 Kentucky American Legion's DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD, in recognition of his forty-two seasons as coach of the Western Kentucky Hill-toppers.

Presentation of this award will be made during our 1975 Department Convention at the Galt House, Louisville, Saturday, July 12 immediately following the address by our National Commander James M. Wagonseller of Lancaster, Ohio. It is estimated that time of the presentation will be approximately 10 am local time.

It would be appreciated if you and other members of the family would be present to accept this award.

Sincerely,

Carl Elovitz
Carl Elovitz,
Department Commander.

ATTEST:

Ray A. Beyer
Ray A. Beyer;
Department Adjutant.

RAB/ng

cc: Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Diddle, Jr.,
Dr. and Mrs. James Phillips.

RSVP



News from Western Kentucky University

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
08B0775/EG:rsh

KENTUCKY AMERICAN LEGION AWARD TO LATE E. A. DIDDLE SATURDAY

Bowling Green, Ky. -- The Kentucky Department of the American Legion will award the late E. A. Diddle, head basketball coach at Western Kentucky University for 42 seasons (1922-1964), its Distinguished Service Award in ceremonies at Louisville, Saturday (July 12).

Diddle's family, which includes his widow, one son, Eddie Jr., and a daughter, Mrs. James Phillips, both of Nashville, Tenn., will receive the award in his behalf.

A similar award will be made to Dr. Otis Singletary, president of the University of Kentucky.

The presentations will be made at 10:30 a.m. (EDT), Saturday, during the Kentucky American Legion's 57th State Convention at Louisville's Galt House. They will follow remarks by Kentucky Gov. Julian M. Carroll and James M. Wagonseller of Lancaster, Ohio, the national commander of the American Legion.

Diddle, who was 75 at his death in 1970, began his coaching career at Western in 1922 after high school coaching stints in Monticello and Greenville and a playing career in both basketball and football at Centre College.

He led the Hilltoppers to 759 victories against only 302 defeats and was the first man to coach 1,000 games at the same school. His win total was the fourth highest of all time. His teams played in every major national tournament and virtually dominated the three conferences in which they played, the Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (KIAC), the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association (SIAA) and the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC).

His influence extended to countless thousands of athletes and other students who came into contact with him during his long and illustrious career.

He is a member of both the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame and the Helms Foundation Hall of Fame.

He was cited by the national Veterans of Foreign Wars for his accomplishments and received the Optimist Club's award for "outstanding achievements and contributions to youth."

He was named the Kentucky Press Association's Kentuckian of the Year in 1957 and won the National Association of Basketball Coaches Honor Award in 1967.

Sports

Ed Diddle:

No heart was so hard as to refuse admittance to Ed Diddle. It was extraordinary that in a small state like Kentucky two college basketball coaches would gain everlasting fame.

In his khaki, Adolph Rupp sent teams to win with instructions to take no prisoners. He was a man of few words, but his words were powerful. Diddle made Western Kentucky a power of such strength that when he died in 1970 UK and Western ranked 12 nationally in all-time victories. And Diddle did it gently.

Not that he was a crumpuff. He once told Dero Downing: "What makes you're such a good basketball player? You're talking to me at Horse Cave, just making a little better now than you were then, and all you know is what I've taught you."

Downing, now president of the university, said, "Then, when you felt the lowliest, like you weren't worth killing, he'd put you on the rear — and you felt like you could beat the world." "A million!" Diddle said. "My coach, he could hit a thousand!" Diddle was in awe of Fred Sawyer, the basketball coach at the time. Sawyer was a big man, 6 feet 13 or 14, at least.

An ambitious player became "am-

the middle. Eternally unsuccessful in attempts to diet, Diddle was a six-footer who sometimes weighed 240 pounds.

He was gullible and innocent, a man with a child's heart. Only hidebound grammarians could have thought ill of Diddle. The coach used words never before heard, and he spoke sentences up to 40 words long. "Kelly Thompson, you're a son of a bitch," he said. "Kelly Thompson, you're a son of a bitch," he said. "Kelly Thompson, you're a son of a bitch," he said.

Numbers tried the coach's tongue sorely. A spectator at practice watched Curly Ellis make several shots from the pivot and said, "Coach, Curly can hit a million from that corner." "A million!" Diddle said. "My coach, he could hit a thousand!"

Diddle was in awe of Fred Sawyer, the basketball coach at the time. Sawyer was a big man, 6 feet 13 or 14, at least.

Diddle, red towel brought Western up from nowhere to top

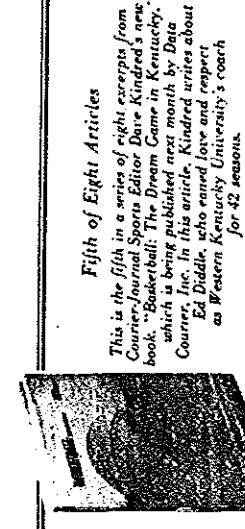
A native of Graceland, Ky., Ed Diddle graduated from Centre College, where in 1919 he was the center and leading scorer on an undefeated basketball team that claimed the championship of the South. In his second season as a high school coach, at Greenville in 1922, Diddle had a fine team with a 26-2 record when it came time to travel to Owensboro for the regional tournament.

Mother Nature butted in, and Ed Diddle was on his way to Western Kentucky.

Kelly Thompson told the story: "Greenville couldn't get to Owensboro because the Green River flooded and the ferry was closed. So Mr. Diddle called the state coach, Mr. Diddle, and they switched the game to Bowling Green."

"Well, Greenville upset a couple teams and everybody was a champion in the fire and the state basketball tournament — especially in the coach — that Western hired Diddle."

The Western Kentucky coaching job



Fifth of Eight Articles

This is the fifth in a series of eight excerpts from Courier-Journal Sports Editor Dave Kindred's new book, "Basketball: The Dream Game in Kentucky," which is being published next month by Delta Courier, Inc. In his article, Kindred writes about Ed Diddle, who earned love and respect as Western Kentucky University's coach for 42 seasons.

Western's lovable bobcat

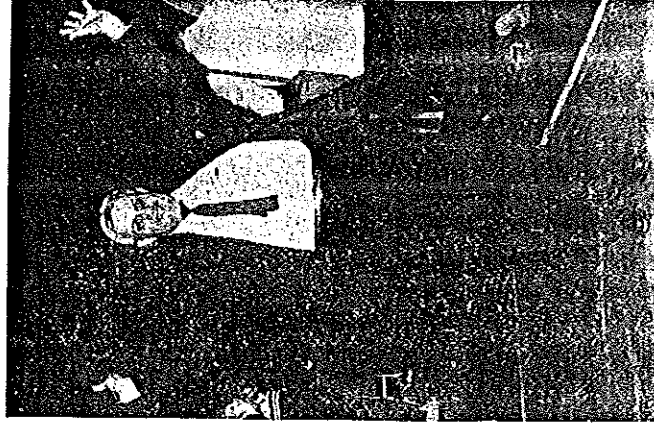
on a December night in 1922, to beat the Adairville Independents 10-3.

"We play the fast break because it makes you have to see to see if you can see it," the coach said. "We play the fast break because it makes you have to see to see if you can see it."

In 1959, in the 37th year of his coaching career, Diddle yet was zealous in pursuit of first-best. "If you play the game right, you're gonna win," he said. "And if you don't win, you're in trouble. Real bad, awful trouble! If there's anything I can't stand, it's a happy loser."

The best way to avoid the calamity of defeat was to get good players, Diddle had a formula: "Then I'm scouting players and I'm looking for tall, overcast, big hands and big feet. If they have big feet, they'll fall down. They've got to be tough and lean and weigh up close to 200 pounds. . . I don't want any boys with fat on their hips. Those kind can't run and they're apt to stand around and think out there."

"I want the nervous kind with temperment and they can't be a race horse, too. A pretty good athlete who is a competitor will beat a talented boy who has a faint heart every time. The thing I always looked for first in a boy was his fire. We can develop his talents, but only God can think he was a pushover," Kelly Thompson



In victory Ed Diddle often waved his red towel. In 42 seasons his Western teams won 750 games.

Kentucky 100101

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6. JOURNAL OF THE

was no prize. Diddle's salary was \$150 a month, less than he made at Green-
wood. For 28 years, at three
records show only 12 scores. The team
played its games in a barn said to seat
250. To be certain Diddle worked for his
\$150, Western assigned him to coach foot-
ball, baseball and girls' basketball, too.
(Diddle soon earned a bonus. He married
his All State forward, Marget Louise
Montin.)

Winning becomes a habit

It was a dozen years before Western
had a 20-victory season. But by then the
school had built a new basketball place
called the Big Red Barn, with seats for
4,500 customers, and Diddle sustained
that enthusiasm with teams that from
1934 to 1943 won 250 games and lost only
41. For whatever respect the Ohio Valley
Conference has across the nation, it
ought to thank Western Kentucky and Ed
Diddle. They gave the OVC a sense of
legitimacy from its origin in 1948. And
they gave the league publicity, for which
the OVC should thank Ed Diddle's red
towel.

With that string of 20-victory seasons
that began in 1934, Western established
its basketball tradition at a regional
level. The step up to the Big Time came
in 1941. A persistent selling job by Kelly
Thompson, then the school's publicity
man, convinced Ned Irish, the boss at
Madison Square Garden, that Ed Diddle,
The Man with the Red Towel, was a show
in himself and with a good team would
add fun to the NIT.

"Ned Irish asked me to throw that
towel wide and high," and did it Diddle
said. Western finished second in the 1941
NIT.

Diddle first sent the towel flying, he
said in a game against Tennessee Tech.
Lamar had the ball, and I screamed at
him to shoot. He squatted down and put
reverse English on the ball.

'Looked like Indian squaw'

"Well, it went in. And when it did, I
threw my towel way up in the air. It was
hot in that barn and I'd been wiping my
hands and face all night. The towel was
wet as water. It came down on my head. I
looked like an Indian squaw with that
towel over my head. 'Coach, we can't win
unless you throw that towel up.' And
along came radio, TV, public relations
men, and high-powered newspapermen
writing about it. So I kept it up."

Diddle's repertoire of towel tricks was
impressive. He threw the towel to the
rafters, beat it against the floor, cried
into it, stuffed it into his mouth. It soon
became a symbol of his emotions, usable
to all, and as when thought towel-waving
might incite crowds against referees.

George Barker of the Nashville Ten-
nessean provided an interpretation of
Diddle's antics with a towel.

"Tossed high into the air. Pure climac-
tic joy."



Staff Photos

Celebrating an upset

Fans and ex-players surround Ed Diddle in celebration of Western's
86-77 upset of Louisville in the 1955 Kentucky Invitational. In front
from left are Eck Branham, Jim Pickens, Diddle and Gene Rhodes.

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News

from Western Kentucky University

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***Sixth in a series of 12 features appearing monthly in observance of WKU's 75th Anniversary (1906-1981).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 5, 1981

BY JIM PICKENS, JR. Pickens is a senior journalism major from Bowling Green, Ky., and a student assistant in Sports Information.

Bowling Green, Ky.--It is common knowledge to most sports fans in Kentucky and many throughout America that E. A. Diddle, Western Kentucky's "man with the red towel," was one of the finest collegiate basketball coaches of all-time.

The Diddle legacy on the hardwood is one that few coaches have been able to duplicate since Dr. James Naismith introduced the game at a YMCA in Springfield, Mass. back in 1891. The official record shows that Diddle amassed 759 victories against 302 defeats in 42 seasons at Western, from 1922 to 1964, and was elected to the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1971.

The parallel between the success of Diddle as a coach and Western as a university is not coincidental, and this story recalls some of the best about the man and his school, as WKU celebrates its 75th anniversary in 1981.

Diddle put Western on the map--nationally--taking his charges throughout the United States to gain exposure for his up-and-coming program which featured the never-before-seen "fast break". Most of that national recognition came from the eight appearances Diddle led Western to in the National Invitation Tournament in New York City.

It was in New York where Diddle's red towel became the trademark with which he and Western athletics would be associated. The big city press went wild over the fun-loving coach "from the hills of Kentucky", playing the Diddle-Red Towel legend to the hilt and establishing the run-and-gun Hilltoppers as perennial crowd favorites in Madison Square Garden.

It was basketball that made Diddle and the red towel legends while spreading the school's name throughout the country. But often times overlooked is Diddle's outstanding record in other sports at Western--women's basketball, football and baseball.

Diddle's single season as women's basketball coach on "the Hill" is typical of the success and good fortune he enjoyed while at the Bowling Green school.

It was in 1922-23 that Diddle led Western to a 5-3 overall mark and the women's state basketball championship by beating Kentucky State 27-19. Not only did Diddle gain his first championship trophy that season, but he also captured something that

DIDDLE...ADD ONE

would prove to mean more to him than all the future championships combined--a wife, in the form of his all-state forward, Louise Monin.

Diddle had taken over the Western football coaching reigns from L. T. Smith in the fall of '22, turning in a sparkling 9-1 record during his "rookie" year on the gridiron. All told, in seven seasons as the Hilltoppers' head football coach, Diddle won 38, lost 24 and tied two for a won-lost percentage of .613.

Diddle coached football alone, with no assistants, and had the opportunity to further develop the no-nonsense, all-business approach to effective coaching that he would possess throughout his basketball career.

"He coached it all by himself and played it rough-and-ready style. We would run basic plays--off tackle, end runs, reverses, and a pass now and then," said Ted Hornback, a Diddle-coached football player and later an assistant basketball and head tennis coach at Western for more than 30 seasons. "He did a great job with what he had. Our facilities and equipment weren't that good back then and Coach had to make do with what he had."

"As far as philosophy is concerned, he (Diddle) wasn't that much different than he was as a basketball coach. He was, of course, a disciplinarian but he was able to get things across to players that other coaches might not be able to. He was great with young people," Hornback continued. "But it (coaching football) got to be too much for him because he was coaching basketball and baseball, too. I think it relieved a lot of pressure when he could put his concentration on two sports instead of three."

Thus, Diddle gave up football following the 1928 season which, ironically, was probably his best. That unit, led by halfback Turner Elrod and quarterback Lynn "Cy" Williams, shut out seven consecutive opponents before losing to Union (Tenn.) College, 7-6. Western bounced back, however, to blank Cumberland 25-0 and gain a win by forfeit over Eastern to wrap up the Kentucky state football championship with an 8-1 overall record.

Diddle began coaching baseball in the spring of 1923 and didn't give up the job until the conclusion of the 1957 season when he was 62 years old. Diddle enjoyed as much success in baseball as he did in every other sport he coached, finishing with a lifetime record of 235-151. His career victory total in baseball remains a school record.

His best team was probably the 1928 state champions that finished 16-1. That club won twelve consecutive games at one stage of the season, a record that stood until WKU's 1980 team won 19 in a row.

Diddle also led the Hilltoppers to two of their three Ohio Valley Conference baseball championships. In 1952, Western won two of three games with Eastern.

· 'DIDDLE...ADD TWO

the title after finishing the year with an overall mark of 11-3 behind the ace pitching of basketball holdovers Gene Rhoades and Art Spoelstra.

The following season, Diddle and the 'Tops did it again, winning the OVC title with an 8-2-1 record and two-game sweep of Tennessee Tech in the post-season playoffs.

As legendary as Diddle's outstanding record and red towel was his manner of speaking.

Using words never before heard, Diddle had a habit of speaking sentences upside down--the words and phrases, similar to baseball Hall-of-Famer Casey Stengel's "Stengalese", became known as "Diddleisms."

Diddle stories are themselves legendary on "the Hill" and a famous one centered around Diddle the baseball coach. Western was to play Eastern Kentucky, 200 miles away in Richmond. "We'll have to cancel the game," Diddle said over his telephone in Bowling Green. "It's raining." The Eastern coach said he hadn't seen rain all day. "Well, just look out your window," Diddle said.

But when one thinks of Diddle one thinks of basketball, first--successful basketball, that is. And rightly so.

Diddle's teams at Western won 32 basketball championships, playing in three NCAA tournaments and eight NIT's. Diddle's teams won 20 games or more in 18 different seasons, doing it ten straight times from 1934-43. Various All-America teams listed 13 Diddle-coached players.

But it's worth mentioning that there was more to Ed Diddle the coach than just men's basketball--as his record in women's basketball, football and baseball belies. Success seemed to go hand in hand with the Diddle name, no matter what sport he was coaching.

All in all, Diddle won 1037 games at Western while losing just 480, compiling a winning percentage of .684. And, simply put, he established one, if not "the", greatest all-around coaching records in the history of collegiate athletics.

Yes, that's worth mentioning.

Diddle's red towel still waves

by Kristen Reeder

Few men are remembered as a gentleman, a friend, a teacher, a cheerleader, a father, a masterful politician and a coach.

Edgar Allen Diddle is.

He was referred to with reverence as "Mr. Diddle," rather than coach. It was the only appropriate way to address him. He was so much more than a coach.

From 1922 to 1964—46 years—Diddle coached basketball at Western Kentucky University. Of the 1,062 games he coached, 759 were victories—the fourth highest total ever for a coach in the United States.

Through all those games, Diddle waved a red towel.

The red towel, which he chewed on, cried on, waved and threw in exultation, became synonymous with WKU's tremendous basketball heritage.

Dee Gibson, Director of Community Relations and Special Events at WKU, who played for Diddle in the 40s, remembers how the red towel tradition began.

Diddle had always waved the red towel, yet it really didn't have any significance until Diddle tossed it during a game—and it landed on his head. The crowd roared, and Diddle discovered the charming effect it had. Since then, the red towel has been Western's best cheerleader.

"The mold was thrown away when Diddle died," Dr. W. R. McCormack, Diddle's personal physician and team doctor, said.

Although WKU has a tradition of excellent coaches, Diddle possessed a charm that can not be easily recaptured.

This is what enabled him to recruit "fine young country boys," as Diddle called them, and turn them into fine students and basketball players.

Early in his career Diddle decided to look for "character first, then quickness, height and big hands and feet."

Diddle made sure they were nice boys when he signed them. His goal

An autographed photograph is one of the many mementos Dr. McCormack cherishes.



was to continue teaching them what they were taught at home and refine their manners.

To these boys, Diddle was a father away from home.

Gibson said, "Mr. Diddle bragged more when his boys made good grades than when they won a game."

Diddle expected a considerable amount from his athletes, but they respected him so much that they gave nothing less than their best. His players knew they would get much more in return.

Jim Richards, who coached basketball at WKU from 1971 to 1978 and played baseball here in the mid-50s, said, "Mr. Diddle's love for his boys didn't end when they graduated. He often brought them chickens when they were married and it wasn't uncommon for him to loan them money if they were in a bind."

Unlike so many men who achieve success, Diddle retained his warmth and generosity.

Mr. Dero Downing, who played for Diddle in the late 30s and later became the president of the university, remembers this generosity.

"Mr. Diddle didn't want any little boy to miss out, so he made sure his small friends got to see WKU play—even if that meant letting them sneak in the old gymnasium windows," Downing said.

Although Diddle "rarely was blue," Gibson said, his eyes contrasted with his outgoing personality in that they "almost seemed sad."

That was part of Diddle's charm, Gibson said. "His eyes endeared people."

Diddle had just as great an effect on the community as he did the university. He loved visiting with the people of Bowling Green. Every morning he would get up at the crack of dawn and begin making his breakfast rounds.

Hunt's One-Stop and Murray's were two of Diddle's favorite restaurants—and he would have breakfast at both of them. Then he would go back to campus to eat at his own red formica-top table at the Garrett Conference Center, where he would be surrounded by university students.

The students loved Diddle like the players, many students thought of him as a father away from home.

At breakfast he would often amuse them with his special way of saying things, which came to be called "Diddleisms."

"Don't put your mouth in your



Coach Diddle waves to fans in E. A. Diddle Arena as Kelly Thompson Sr. looks on.

foot," Diddle might say. The students were so enthralled with Diddle, that it often wasn't until after breakfast that they realized the oddity of his remark.

At over 6-feet tall and carrying up to 230 pounds, Diddle was forever trying to diet. But one doesn't get skinny on good Kentucky breakfasts of biscuits and gravy with grits. Diddle loved making his breakfast rounds too much to give them up.

Diddle never gave up on anything. He told McCormack that he wanted to "die with his boots on."

He did just that.

Even after his retirement in 1964,

Diddle waved his red towel until his death on January 3, 1970.

Printed words can hardly do justice to Diddle's influence. Yet in Gibson's office, there is a photograph and a poem that says it all:

And when this man has
Come and gone forever
What then is the true treasure
Of his life?

It is the unending quest for
Honor and excellence
Which he has inspired in the hearts
Of those he left behind. □

PHOTO COURTESY OF WKU ARCHIVES

Diddle biography to come out in October

6-3-84
By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Writer

Just about everybody who ever graduated from Western knows that Ed Diddle was a coaching legend.

His 759 wins is the fourth highest total ever for a coach and he is in the Naismith and Helms Athletic Foundation Halls of Fame.

Probably not so many people know that he was also quite a linguist during his tenure on the Hill.

One day in practice Diddle was putting his players through a drill and telling them to drive straight to the basket. One of the players wasn't doing so well and the coach took him aside and told him, "you know what your problem is, your too indedamnpendent."

He created many new words that became known as "Diddleisms" and it was hearing those that gave Dr. C. Harvey Gardiner the idea five years ago for his forthcoming biography on Diddle, "Coach Diddle//Mr. Diddle: Motivator of Men."

"Five years ago I came to Bowling Green and gave Western a block of my library and materials," said Gardiner, a retired history professor. While Gardiner was here on that visit he said the only talk about Diddle that he heard from people was about his "Diddleisms."

"That's all they were saying about a man that won 759 games and coached here for 42 years. I said 'there must be more to this man than that,'" Gardiner said. "I decided if there was more to the man than the round ball then I would write a book about him and I started digging."

Gardiner has done a lot of digging for the 27 books he has published during his career of teaching and research which began in 1946 and ended with his retirement in 1974.

After attending the University of Wisconsin, Kentucky and Emory in Atlanta, Gardiner received his bachelor's in History from Western in 1936. He received his master's at Kentucky and his doctorate at Michigan before he began his teaching career at Washington University in St. Louis. His specialty is Latin American history.

"Some people are tennis bums. I was a college bum," Gardiner said with a laugh.

Gardiner put in two years of research and just recently completed the manuscript of the biography. The book will go to press June 28, although it will not be released until the first week of October, according to the 70-year-old author.

He said he wrote the book out of respect and admiration for Diddle, but he also wanted to help Western.

Gardiner said the book will sell for \$15 and for every book that is sold, \$5 will be donated for scholarships at Western. Each \$5 donation will be split between the alumni office and the Hilltopper Hundred Club.

"I want the money to help the athletic program and all students," Gardiner said.

In the book, Gardiner writes about Diddle's illustrious coaching career, but he added he tried to show more than just the sports side of the coach.

"I tried to get the personal side, the motivating, coaching and recruiting," Gardiner said. "He was famous as a coach but he loved his fellow man. He cared for all the students, not just the athletes. If he had confidence in a person he would help them as much as he could."

In doing research for the book Gardiner said he interviewed between 75 and 100 people, including members of Diddle's family, his friends and former players.

The author said just by talking with the people who knew Diddle best, he felt he had gotten to know the coach, even though he never met him.

"I went through games, practices, on recruiting trips. I felt I got to know the boys who played for him and his family," Gardiner said. "I think I got a good, balanced presentation. A look at the whole man."

Diddle left impression as dad for a day

To those who knew him, Ed Diddle was bigger than life. The man who coached Western Kentucky's Hilltoppers to greatness on the national basketball scene thought of just about everyone else before he thought of himself. Until the day he died, he commanded the love and respect of all who knew him.

Ask Jim Pickens.

Pickens went from Princeton, Ky., to play football and baseball at Western. Diddle coached baseball, too.

During Western's first Ohio Valley Conference football season it scheduled a Dad's Day game.

In his new book, "Coach Diddle, Mister Diddle, Motivator of Men," C. Harvey Gardiner writes:

"At halftime, a father, wearing the same numerals as his son, would, when announced, walk to midfield, meet his boy and walk with him under the goal posts.

"The day before that game, against Georgetown that year, the Hilltoppers were engaged in a light practice when Coach approached Jim Pickens. 'Jim,' he asked, knowing that the boy's father was deceased, 'who's goin' to represent you tomorrow?"

"Well, Coach,' Jim replied, 'nobody's going to represent me. Don't worry about it.'

"At halftime the next day West-

Earl Cox



10-7-4-8-4

Courier-Journal sports columnist

ern's team returned early to the field for festivities. Then the loud speaker began to boom, pairing players, by name, number, and position, with their fathers.

"Pickens, standing near the bench, felt completely out of it until the loud speaker sounded. 'And representing the tailback from Princeton, Ky., Jim Pickens, wearing No.

30, Coach E.A. Diddle.'

"Out came Coach, wearing No. 30, front and back.

"I walked up to him with tears in my eyes," Jim recalls, "and we locked arms and walked all the way down the field."

Is it any wonder, during Mr. Diddle's final days, that Jim Pickens dropped by every day to shave and care for his substitute father?

Gardiner is a retired history professor at Western Kentucky University. His 266-page book is available for \$15.75 (tax included) from Alumni Director Lee Robertson, Craig Alumni Center, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Ky. 42101. Checks should be made payable to "WKU Alumni Association."

Western's scholarship fund will get \$5 from the sale of each book.

Anyone who loves Kentucky basketball will enjoy the book and you don't have to be a basketball fan to chuckle at Gardiner's tales about Diddle. And the book certainly belongs on the shelf of all Western fans and students.

One of the more interesting stories concerns the rift that developed between Diddle and one of his star pupils, Peck Hickman, then coach at the University of Louisville.

They had scheduling problems, and Diddle was ready to whip the world when a U of L player hit Ed-die Diddle Jr. in the face with the ball on the throw-in during a game at the Jefferson County Armory.

It took the considerable public relations skills of Louisville's Ben Eden, who was the tax man for both of them, to bring his two good friends together.

Diddlisms

Book brings legend back to life

"Coaching basketball might very well have been one of the lesser things that Ed Diddle did for Western."

— Anonymous quote in *"Coach Diddle/Mister Diddle: Motivator of Men"*

By JEFF SCHNEIDER

That's the ultimate compliment for a man who won 759 basketball games and is in the basketball Hall of Fame.

However, it was the "Diddlisms," the stories that surrounded legendary Western basketball coach E. A. Diddle, that inspired C. Harvey Gardiner to write *"Coach Diddle/Mister Diddle: Motivator of Men"* — a book about a man he had only met once through a handshake.

Gardiner, who spoke at a Hundred Club luncheon Thursday at the Greenwood Executive Inn, said there are many legendary stories about Diddle, but felt the world didn't know the great man. He came out of retirement in Tampa, Fla., to ensure they would.

"It had to be written — I was compelled," Gardiner said. "I felt, too, that his life was ageless."

Because he believed there were many untrue stories about Diddle, Gardiner traveled 6,000 miles in four years, gathering information from people who knew Diddle folklore.

He talked to Diddle's classmates, Western students and former players. He also spent hours in University Archives, combing articles

that described the man who was the "Father of the Fast-Break."

Gardiner said most people Diddle knew grew fond of his fatherly ways.

"Diddle was a trailblazer — not only in athletics but in the citizenship he represented," Gardiner said. "He was a man interested in the community."

"He was interested in the whole student. I remember the stories about Coach telling freshmen to write home to their mothers. Coach was always looking out today, for the tomorrow at Western."

Gardiner is a native Kentuckian who entered the University of Kentucky the first year Adolph Rupp started coaching. He transferred to Western and graduated in 1936.

He's a retired history professor who has taught across the United States and in England and Japan.

Gardiner presented Diddle's wife and daughter with a copy of his book at the luncheon.

"I was chagrined because nobody had touched it," Gardiner said. "Some people just can't sit still to put words on paper."

The book is 254 pages that detail Diddle's life from a Western Kentucky farm to prominence as a major college coach who ranks fourth in career victories.

In the book, Gardiner tells stories of how Diddle popularized the red towel and his fiery approach to sports and, sometimes, sports-writers.

"In 1968, Dayton came to Bowling Green," Gardiner said. "Because the Flyers had knocked the Hill-toppers out of the NCAA tourney by two points in overtime the previous year, it promised to be a hectic game, one in which Coach Diddle (after he retired) hoped the opposition would be 'paid back with interest.'"

The contest lived up to pre-game estimates and Mr. Diddle developed an urge to lead cheers.

"When told by a Dayton sports-writer that he couldn't get on top of the press table in front of the student section, Diddle snapped, 'What do you mean I can't get on top of this table? This is my damn gym!'"

Gardiner believes his book does justice to a man who is known to some only for having his name on a building.

The book is \$15.75 with \$5 being funneled into Western's scholarship program. Lee Robertson, director of Alumni Affairs, is handling the distribution of the book.

"I wanted to keep the prices down because that's the way Mr. Diddle would have wanted it," Gardiner said.

But more importantly, his book tells people the stories behind the name.

"To the people who enter Diddle Arena, he is only a name," Gardiner said. "The Diddle name, now, is here today and for tomorrow."

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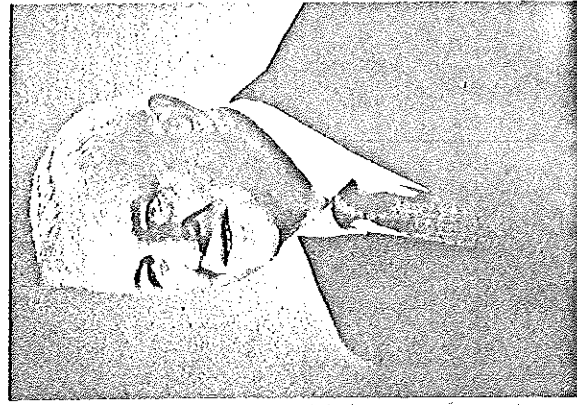
Western's favorite son warmly recalled in biography by C. Harvey Gardiner

Coach Diddle — Mister Diddle: Motivator of Men, by C. Harvey Gardiner. Nashville: Parthenon Press, 1984. 266 pages, illustrations. \$15.75. Reviewed by Lowell H. Harrison, history professor, Western Kentucky University.

C. Harvey Gardiner transferred to Western Kentucky State Teachers College in 1935 and graduated the next year with a major in history. During that brief stay, while acquiring an affection for the school, he became fascinated by the legendary Coach Diddle whom he met only once.

Gardiner went on to a distinguished career in higher education. More than two dozen books and even more articles, most of them in the field of his Latin American specialty, testify to his scholarship. When he retired from Southern Illinois University, Gardiner decided to do a study of E.A. Diddle that would treat the man as well as the coach.

The result, after scores of interviews and intensive research in the University Archives and published sources, is a book which presents both the coach who won 759 basketball games at one school and the man who influenced so many lives. A common refrain in many of the interviews with his players is



E.A. DIDDLE

the declaration, "He was like a father to me."

When President Henry Hardin Cherry offered the young high school coach the position at Western in 1922 he wrote, "I really think there is a great field here for you..." Diddle accepted the offer of \$1,800 for 10 months and became the coach of all sports, including women's basketball. On that team was Louise Monin, his future wife.

A dozen heart attacks and several other ailments finally forced Diddle's retirement in 1964. During his

long tenure the gregarious man with the mournful eyes became the most widely known member of the Western community. He and his exciting teams gave the college national recognition that it could not have achieved otherwise. Diddle's colorful personality, his famous red towel and his oft-quoted malapropisms contributed as much to the growing legend as did the success of his teams.

Diddle was not, Gardiner says, a great basketball theorist or court technician; for such needs he depended heavily upon his assistants, particularly Ted Hornback who joined him in 1938. Diddle was a great motivator, a masterful psychologist who had the ability to see potential in some unlikely sources and to get the possessors of that potential to develop it. As the author says, "But, of course, Coach Diddle did entertain a preference for boys — tall boys with big hands and big feet. With them he made history. Of them he made men."

Most of the favorite Diddle stories are in this book, and there are others that are not as well known. Fans who have long argued about which was Diddle's best team will be interested to know that he most often mentioned those of 1943, 1948 and 1954, with the 1947-1948 group given the top spot. That squad,

which had a 28-2 season, include seven of Diddle's 14 All-Americans: Oran McKinney, Dee Gibson, Do Ray, Odie Spears, John Oldham, Bob Lavoy and Rip Gish. Of course some of Diddle's great players from the early years had no opportunity to gain such recognition.

Diddle's greatest basketball disappointment was his failure to win the NIT, then the most important tournament in the country. He came closest in his first attempt when the 1941-42 team lost to Western Virginia University 47-45 in the title game. It was unfortunate that two of his worst seasons were the last two of his long career; he did not deserve to stop on that note.

Coach Diddle remained devoted to the school during his years of retirement until his death in January 1970. No cheerleaders ever revived lagging enthusiasm as effectively as "Old Coach" and his red towel when he decided the students needed to be aroused.

Several dozen illustrations add to the attractiveness of this re-jacketed book. It has appeared in time to simplify Christmas shopping for almost anyone ever associated with Western. Dr. Gardiner's book is obviously a labor of love; I think Coach Diddle would have enjoyed it.

'Stand up and remain seated' as Hornback recalls 'Diddle-isms'

C.J. 2-3-86
BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Although Ted Hornback, the former athletic director at Western Kentucky University, is eminently qualified to talk basketball, he is most often asked to relate what he calls "Diddle-isms," remarks made by the late Western head basketball coach, Ed Diddle, under whom Hornback played and was later an assistant.

Diddle died Jan. 2, 1970, but he had become something of a folk hero even before then, loved almost as much for his unintentional wit as for his winning tradition at Western.

Verbally, Diddle "was always getting the cart before the horse," Hornback said.

"One of my favorites was, 'Anything in excess is too much.'"

"Another one he used a lot was, 'It's so big, it's huge.'"

While one of the former coach's most famous "Diddle-isms" was

Former WKU basketball coach Ed Diddle, left, and assistant Ted Hornback were also neighbors. Hornback enjoys telling "Diddle-isms."

1947 Staff Photo



Byron
Crawford

Courier-Journal
columnist

his instruction to his players to "line up alphabetically, according to height," Hornback, 79, recalls another occasion when Diddle, in front of a school assembly, told his team, "Stand up and remain seated until I have introduced you all."

During World War II, when there were fears that Western might be forced to discontinue its basketball program, Hornback remembers Diddle's assuring a solemn assembly of students and faculty that the college would never "disabandon" basketball.

For several years, Diddle and Hornback were neighbors on Normal Drive in Bowling Green.

"Diddle's philosophy was this: 'What's mine is mine, and what's Ted's is mine,'" Hornback said, pausing for a laugh. "I'm a gar-

Try following this
Diddle instruction:
"Line up
alphabetically,
according to height."

dener, see. I'd plant my garden in the spring and go over and help him plant his. He'd let the weeds take his, then he'd steal from mine.

"There was a hole in the fence, and he'd crawl through that hole and pick vegetables and take them out and give them to his friends and say they were his.

"The next morning, I'd hear the lawn mower going, and I'd look out and he'd be cutting my grass, or maybe he'd be washing my car, paying me for taking those things, see. I've got a dogwood tree out here in my yard that he planted 25 or 30 years ago while I was in the hospital at Louisville,

"He was like that, rough and

See A.V. ASSOCIATE

PAGE 3, col. 1, this section



Staff Photo by Byron Crawford

Ted Hornback
About those red towels ...

C.J. 2-3-86

An associate fondly recalls 'Diddle-isms'

Continued from Page B 1

tough, but could be tender and gracious. He never spoke an unkind word to me in his life."

Diddle's famed trademark, a red towel, is another interesting story.

In the beginning the towels were white, says Hornback, who, in addition to being freshman basketball coach and tennis coach, was also head of the physical education department at Western.

"We didn't have any money; no budget to amount to anything. Mr. Diddle would go down and borrow phys-ed towels from my equipment manager, and take them and use them to keep from spending his own money.

"I said, 'We can correct that, we're gonna buy red towels.' So I went to the business office and ordered probably four or five thousand.

"You know what that old rascal did then? He tried to dye his towels red; had red all over everything. Then, when he saw he couldn't do that, he bought red towels ... and, again, he could continue to borrow my red towels without bringing them back."

So began the red-towel tradition at Western.

Hornback, who during his first of nine years as a high school basketball coach, won a state championship and took Corinth High School in Grant County to a third-place finish at the national high school tournament, might well have been successful as a head coach in college. But he could never bring himself to leave Western.

Several schools, including Vanderbilt and Marquette, offered him head coaching jobs, but Hornback remained at Western until his retirement as athletic director in 1971.

Since then, he and his wife, Elizabeth, have enjoyed retirement in a rambling ranch home on the edge of Bowling Green — a house full of mementos, but without the excitement of the old days.

Ed Diddle is no longer around to steal vegetables from their garden, to mow their yard or to wash their car.

"We were buddies," Hornback reflected. "I knew he was the boss, but the thing I liked and appreciated about Mr. Diddle was that he let me work, and that's what I wanted to do."

Readers fill the gaps from pie to 'Diddle-isms'

director, recalled some of his favorite "Diddle-isms."

"The game was about to start, and the players laid down on their bellies, heads in the center circle, and had a word of prayer," Perry recalled. "On this occasion (Diddle) called on Dooley Stansbury for the prayer."

"Everyone was very quiet when, all of a sudden, the coach jumped up, stomped the floor, jerked his towel from his neck and yelled, Dooley, I've told you a thousand times never to pray for victory, but pray for sportsman-like ship."

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Finally, W. R. Perry of Murray shares a "Diddle-ism," a colorful remark attributed to the late Ed Diddle, former head basketball coach of the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers. Perry's story came in response to my column of Feb. 3 in which Ted Hornback, Western's former athletic

Coach E.A. Diddle could really throw in the towel

By HERMAN LOWE

Who else but Edgar Allen Diddle of Western Kentucky University, could take a red towel and make it famous, make it a legend in his own lifetime? He had both a sense of humor and of the dramatic, was a master of publicity and of making friends. The reason he had so many friends was that he was a friend to so many.

On the several trips I traveled with him and his basketball group to Madison Square Garden in New York City, I saw all this demonstrated. Each time when Western arrived it was like old home week. The Belvedere Hotel and Madison Square Garden went all out welcoming the Western Gang. Ned Irish and his assistant, John Golden, led the welcoming.

On my first trip when we walked into the lobby of the Belvedere, a tall nice looking man got up and was quickly introduced by Kelly Thompson, as Arthur Daley, famous sport columnist of the New York Times. The next morning Daley devoted his whole column in the center of the New York Times sport page to Coach Diddle and Western just as Coach and Kelly gave it to him.

From then on sport writers, cartoonists, broadcasters were almost continually around or waiting to see the famous Coach from Kentucky. Their stories were sent out over the networks.

In March, 1952 Western was playing in the NIT in Madison Square Garden. At that time Dero Downing (later president of WKU) was a player on Western's basketball team. We were playing Creighton University in the Semi Finals of the NIT. In the first round Western defeated C.C.N.Y. Now with a second or two to go, and Western down by one, Downing had the ball and was racing toward the goal from way down the floor.

As he reached the center of the floor, Coach Diddle saw that Downing was going to shoot to beat



(Courtesy Western Kentucky University Archives)

COACH EDGAR ALLEN DIDDLE was glad that Dero Downing didn't always listen to him — or couldn't always hear him, whichever, when he sank a shot from the middle of the floor at Madison Square Garden.

the horn. Diddle screamed, "No, Dero! No!"

But Downing let go a high flying shot with the Madison Square Garden spectators about to tear the house down. It seemed like that shot took forever to land. But it landed right where Downing wanted it to land. It knocked the bottom out of the basket and barely hit the floor as the horn blew ending the game.

Coach Diddle jumping into the air, threw his red towel nearly to

the ceiling and yelled, "That's my boy! That's my boy!"

That put Western in the finals where West Virginia defeated it by two points.

Coach Diddle remarked, "We'll be back." Or maybe like General McArthur, he said, "I shall return."

And he did, eight times in all, with Kelly Thompson feeding Ned Irish Western's records in the O.V.C. and any other games Western had time to play.

Coach Diddle's manager dressed formally in NYC

By HERMAN LOWE

Musing over some of the great players that played basketball for Western Kentucky University I thought how wonderful it would be if I could list them all. Then I realized that it would take a whole big special edition of the Daily News to do anything like list them all.

Before World War II took so many young men away, Coach Diddle had even a great team manager called "Green Apples". During games in Madison Square Garden he dressed formal with a derby hat given him by Western players, white muffler, long tail coat and

white spats. When he ran out on the basketball floor to attend a Western player, photographers and sport writers popped up from all around.

Western had already played in Madison Square Garden on this trip and had come on down to Philadelphia and played before we were to catch a train home to Bowling Green.

Coach Ed Diddle and Kelly Thompson (and Green Apples) had us all gathered in our hotel lobby to leave in taxis for our train. Green Apples came dragging a three bushel bag of newspapers with writeups and pictures about Western, down the steps from the second floor.

We all got loaded into taxis and headed for the train station. When we got there we found we were at the wrong station!! Our station was across town! And it just lacked minutes for us to go aboard our train.

Thompson yelled for me to dash out front and get five taxis. He handed me a five dollar bill. Outside a starter with a whistle was calling up taxis and loading them from a line of waiting people.

When I ran up to him and said, "We need five taxis for the Western Kentucky Basketball Team if we are to catch our train at the other station across town. We are at the wrong station and have to hurry." He looked like he thought I was an idiot. I stuck the five dollar bill in his face. He grabbed it, (a dollar was a dollar then) blew his whistle and signaled for five taxis.

We piled in, started a wild ride at 70 miles an hour right through red lights. Though it was after midnight I thought we were all going to get killed, but we reached the station with our train starting to move.

"Get aboard any car!" Thompson yelled. The engineer must have realized we were desperately determined to get aboard for he did not pick up speed until we were all aboard.

Our reservations were up near the engine. When we finally reached them Diddle and Thompson faced each other alone in double seats. Thompson said don't anybody wake me up. I'm dead for sleep."

Coach Diddle sat, his big sad eyes looking out the window. Sitting behind him, after a while I saw him reach across, grab Thompson by the shoulders, shake him and say, "Look out there, Kelly, it's snowing," Thompson objected definitely, saying, "I don't want to see it snowing! I want to sleep!"

After a while it started to get daylight. Again Coach Diddle reached across and gave Kelly the works. "Look out there now, Kelly, it's getting daylight. You can see it snowing good."

Again Thompson "objected."



Courtesy WKU Athletic Department

WHEN WESTERN WAS WINNING and the cheerleaders were dancing and singing, Coach Diddle would whirl the red towel he made famous in rhythm with the cheerleaders.



(Photo courtesy of WKU Archives)

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY'S basketball coach Edgar Allen Diddle was a favorite with the cheerleaders. He is shown here with Betty Waters,

Donna Grant, Cheryl Thompson, Mary Jane Scarborough, and Cleven Dearinger.

Diddle knew the secret:

good basketball takes good cheerleaders

D.V. 6-19-86

By HERMAN LOWE

"Dear Coach Diddle,

We would like to take this opportunity to let you know what a wonderful person we think you are. Coach, you have been an unfailing inspiration throughout our year as freshman cheerleaders. We want you to know how much we appreciate it. We love you, Coach Diddle and everything you represent.

Thanks for everything.

Sincerely

The Freshman Cheerleaders

1968-69"

...

The Western Freshman

Cheerleaders of 1963-1969 distinguished themselves by writing the above letter to Coach Diddle and starting one of its members, Mary Jane Scarborough on the road to becoming one of six All American Cheerleaders chosen from throughout the United States for award winners by The International Cheerleading foundation.

Some of her winnings included trips to Los Angeles, New York and Madison Square Garden, many cities in the U.S., and \$1000 scholarship and cash prizes, complete wardrobe, many other prizes, honors and citations, a Mary Jane Scarborough week in Bowling

Green.

Now here in Bowling Green she is the wife of Jim Parish. They have two children, Bo, age seven and Ann Wade, age four. Mary Jane owns an Aerobic Studio called "The Workout Company." Jimmy is a broker for E.F. Button.

Mary Jane is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. John Scarborough of Bowling Green. Dr. Scarborough told me once, "When our daughter first started at Western she was known as the daughter of John Scarborough. Now I'm known as the father of Mary Jane Scarborough."

These men built Western's plant

P.N.
7-6-56
By HERMAN LOWE

Except for Dr. H.H. Cherry himself, here together are three great builders of Western up to 1960: Kelly Thompson, Coach Ed Diddle, and L.T. Smith. Also included are two of Western's products who helped Coach Diddle win his 700th game at Western Kentucky University. We might mention also that this 700th won the Sugar Bowl Championship. Coach Diddle and Charlie Osborne are holding the championship trophy. Bobby Rascoe is holding the "Most Valuable Player" trophy which he won.

L.T. Smith came to Western in 1920 as a manual arts instructor, did some coaching, some building, constructed some concrete walks in the dirt paths students made around "The Hill," and ended up with the fine L.T. Smith Football and Athletic Stadium named for him.

Kelly Thompson came to Western in 1928, became president of Western following President Garrett, and at once started making the dreams of H.H. Cherry, founder and first president, come true. President Thompson built (counting a few already started) forty-three buildings, thus saving Western millions of dollars if those buildings had to be built today.

On old Ogden College campus is a fine, modern building named for Kelly.

Named for Coach Diddle, who came to Western in 1922, there is the big round Diddle Arena across the

road from Dero Downing Center.

Of course there are many, many more fine buildings named for some of the teachers and people who have helped to make Western the great school it is today. Even though there are many fine buildings, there are more fine people (than buildings) working with dedication at Western in all departments. They all add up to make Western such a credit to Bowling Green and Kentucky.

I think Dr. H.H. Cherry would be happy if he could see it now.

A word about L.T. Smith. He bragged about being Scotch. His father and grandfather came from around Aberdeen, Scotland. Wife Em and I were going to Scotland, and when L.T. saw Aberdeen on our itinerary, he said, "You might see some of my ancestors."

When we got there, I was out snapping pictures wearing an American plaid sportscoat when I noticed some men sitting on benches in front of a general store. They were watching me. I walked over and said good morning to them. They laughed and said, "We were just wondering what clan your coat represents."

"What did you decide?"

"We thought it might be a Nixon plaid."

I asked if they knew any Smiths. One of the men replied, "I used to know one who went to the U.S."

I asked, "Was he Scottish?"

"Scottish? Oh, yea. He went to a ferry up the river here and asked the

ferryman how much it costs to go across. He was told, 'One and a half pennies.' Then he asked, 'When do you have an excursion rate?'

When I told L.T. about it, he said, "Could have been my granddad."



(Courtesy of Western Kentucky University Archives)

WESTERN PRESIDENT Kelly Thompson, left, stood with Charlie Osborne, Coach Ed Diddle, Bobby Rascoe, and L.T. Smith, Chairman of

the Western Athletic Committee when the coach won his 700th game. Only two of the above are still living, Kelly Thompson and Bobby Rascoe.

Hornback, Diddle together again

WKU legend joins Diddle in state Hall

7-12-87

By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

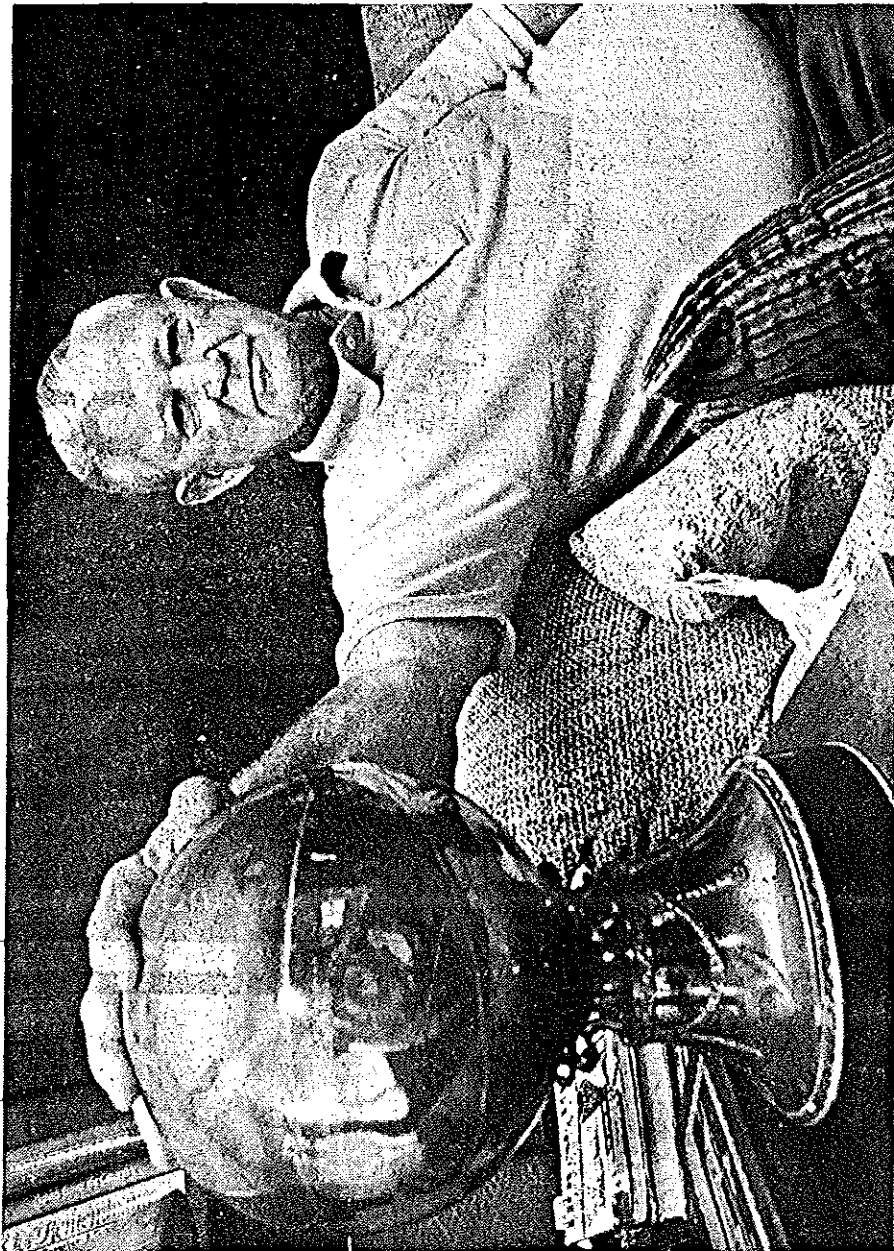
Ted Hornback likes to tell stories. Sit down in his family room, which has momentos here and there from his days at Western and as a high school coach, and it won't be long before he will say, "I'd like to tell you this story."

While he's treating a visitor to a tale, Hornback might cut up some cantaloupe, fresh from his garden.

"I feed about half the neighborhood," Hornback says. "I've always had a garden. I'm just a country boy from Sonora, Kentucky."

And Hornback has plenty of stories to tell. Many are about Edgar Allen Diddle, Western's legendary head basketball coach for 42 years. And Hornback is probably the best qualified man alive to tell those Diddle stories, because he was right there, next to Uncle Ed, on the bench for the last 25 of those 42 years.

Continued on Page 14
Column 1, This Section



(Staff Photo by Mark Workman)

The man behind Diddle

TED HORNBACK will join his long-time friend and former boss, the late Edgar Allen Diddle, in the Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame at a ceremony in Louisville's Executive West Hotel Monday. Hornback, who was involved in Western athletics for over 30 years, was selected as one of seven new inductees chosen from a list of 60 by a committee of sports writers and broadcasters across the state.

Hornback, Diddle formed close bond at WKU

80

Continued From Page 12-A

Hornback is a storyteller and gardener now. He deserves the leisure time, because from 1939 until his retirement in 1976, Hornback was like a one-man band in Western's athletic department.

Hornback didn't play the drums, cymbals, trumpet and other instruments in the one-man band's act, but he was, at one time or another, the assistant basketball coach, freshman football coach, head tennis coach, head of the physical education department, athletics director and floor cleaner.

"He would go up there and sand and wax the basketball floor during Christmas break," says Elizabeth, who will celebrate 57 years of marriage to Hornback in August.

"And I loved every minute of it," Hornback says, of his time, with Elizabeth and at Western.

If someone counted the minutes Hornback devoted to Western and basketball, they'd be in the millions by now. Although retired, Hornback can often be seen along press row at Western's basketball games, right across the floor from where he and Diddle sat during their last season of coaching.

Hornback's service will be recognized Monday when he is inducted into the Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame in Louisville.

With his induction Hornback will once again join Diddle, who is also in the state's Hall of Fame.

And that's the way it should be.

Diddle and Hornback.

Hornback and Diddle.

They were nearly an inseparable team. They shared many hours coaching together, but their relationship was closer than that. They lived only one house away from each other. Their children grew up together. Sometimes Diddle would sleep over at Hornback's house. They were business partners on the basketball floor. But more important, they were good friends.

"We had a hole in our fence and Mr. Diddle would crawl through it and get vegetables out of our garden," Elizabeth says. "He'd say, 'Those are getting too big out there.'"

"He'd come over and mow the yard and wash the car. That was how he'd pay us back," Hornback says.

"They were always together," says Eddie Diddle, son of the famous coach.

What Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers were to dancing, Diddle and Hornback were to Western basketball.

"He and Mr. Diddle were the perfect combo," says John Oldham, the man who replaced Diddle as Western's basketball coach and Hornback as athletics director.

"They fit together like a hand and glove," says Kelly Thompson.

Western's president emeritus and chairman of the College Heights Foundation. "They complemented each other very well."

Hornback is easygoing, just like a good old country boy from Sonora.

"He has always been a calm person. It's typical of his approach to life," Thompson says.

That was the perfect neutralizer for Diddle, who was known to bite a Red Towel or two.

"He was the type of person who could really get worked up, an emotional type," said Thompson of Diddle. "Ted was much more reserved on the bench."

Hornback was the man who did a lot of the game preparation on the staff. And if a fire needed to be lit under somebody, Diddle was the one to do it.

"Mr. Diddle relied on Ted very strongly," Thompson says. "Ted was the detail man. He would do scouting reports and that kind of thing. They had a fine partnership."

"Ted was more the tactician, and Dad was more the recruiter and philosopher," Eddie Diddle says.

That partnership had its seeds sown back in the winter of 1924-25, when Hornback was a senior at Sonora High School.

"(Mr. Diddle) would come referee some of our ballgames," Hornback says. "We didn't have a gym, played on an outdoor court. One day we were all laying around after a game, panting, and he came in and kicked me and said, 'When I get you to Western, I'll make you stop smoking those cigarettes.'"

The next fall, Hornback was at Western, paying \$5 tuition. And when he got to Bowling Green, Hornback unexpectedly became a two-sport performer.

"Mr. Diddle made everybody come out for football. We were all from country schools and had never played football," Hornback says. "He'd say, 'It's good for you. It will help you.' He used us for tackling dummies."

The abuse must not have been that bad, though, because Hornback graduated in 1929 and had his first head coaching job the next year at Corinth, close to Lexington.

He became the first rookie coach ever to win the boys' state basketball championship — a record that still stands — and his team finished third in the last national high school basketball tournament ever held.

"After we won the state tournament (over Kavanaugh, 22-20), Earl Ruby of the Courier-Journal came up to me and said, 'Ted, I've got to tear this story up and start over.' I told him I hoped it took him all night," Hornback says with a laugh.

Hornback coached in the high school ranks for eight years, but, then Diddle called him back to the Hill.

"I knew it would be a challenge and a good opportunity," Hornback says.

It was both.

Diddle, fourth in wins (759) on the all-time college coaches list, and Hornback soon became fixtures on the Western sideline. They were together at clinics, speeches, state tournaments, everywhere. Being the assistant of a successful and well-known coach might have whetted another man's appetite for a team of his own, but Hornback never hungered for that, although he did get other offers, and he even took one school up on it — almost.

Red Sanders, former athletics director and famed football coach at Vanderbilt, was looking after World War II ended for a coach to revive the basketball fortunes of the Nashville, Tenn., school.

Hornback took the job and started recruiting for the Commodores the summer before the 1945-46 season. In fact, the younger Diddle and Rip Gish were ready to play for Hornback at Vanderbilt.

"When he went to Vanderbilt, Mr. Diddle came over every day. He nearly drove me crazy," Elizabeth says. "When we bought the house down there, he nearly died."

Then there were some second thoughts on Hornback's part, and he decided to come back to Bowling Green.

"I told him (Sanders) that I could get more money, keep my house and family together in Bowling Green. And we were always going to have good basketball," Hornback says. "I went and talked to Western's president at the time (Paul Garrett) and told him what it would take to get me back."

"He said I could get more money, but I'd never get another raise. I went to Coach Diddle then, and he asked me what I was doing there. I told him it was time to get back to work. He started jumping up and down and crying."

If Hornback ever had a burning desire to be the head coach at Western, it had cooled by the time Diddle retired after the 1964 season. In all, Diddle, with Hornback at his side, amassed a 515-208 record.

And those close to the program knew how valuable Hornback really was, even though he might not have been getting his picture in the newspaper all the time.

"Things would've been totally different if he hadn't been there," Eddie says of Hornback's coaching contributions.

And, besides, Hornback certainly didn't feel like he had anything to prove.

"When the Western job came up, it was just too late for me," Hornback says. "I was 58 years old, I would've only had five or six years left. I knew there was an opportunity to become athletics director. It was a chance to take it a little easier. I was still going to be involved with athletics. It was a whole lot less pressure."

There wasn't much pressure for Hornback as tennis coach, either. And he was extremely successful at that, his teams etching a 371-76 mark in 34 years and winning 18 Ohio Valley Conference championships in 28 years of league competition.

Part of Hornback's success later in his tennis coaching career was because of a Swedish invasion that began when former Western track coach Tom Ecker went to head up the Swedish National Team.

"I told Tom to send me any good players he found over there. I got a letter from a Tor Tveit over there, and I wanted to find out more about him, so I wrote back," Hornback says. "I gave him a scholarship and from then on I had to fight them off, so many of them wanted to come over here."

Several fine Swedish and Turkish players, some of whom are club professionals in the United States now, followed Tveit to Western.

But Hornback wasn't just innovative in ways to recruit tennis players. He realized early on that the university's athletic programs needed subsidizing.

In his first year as athletics director, Hornback founded the Hilltopper Hundred Club, now the Hilltopper Athletic Foundation.

"We didn't have anything to spend on recruiting. We'd write letters, or make phone calls or have friends who would tell us about players," Hornback says of his reasons for needing an athletic booster organization.

For all his basketball accomplishments, Hornback is equally proud of what Western did dur-

ing his seven years as athletics director:

—A Final Four appearance in men's basketball.

—TWO Division II runners-up titles in football.

—AND six OVC All-Sports championships.

Western had never won an All-Sports title before Hornback became AD.

Oldham took over as athletics director in 1971, but Hornback continued to coach tennis. Finally it came time in 1976 for Hornback, who had the reached mandatory retirement age of 70, to end his career.

It was time to start telling stories, to work in the garden.

Hornback's basketball legacy was carried on by his players. His family legacy is carried on by three scholarly children and four grandsons. One son, Ted Jr., is the head of the English Department at California-Sacramento; the other son, Jerry, is a professor at Michigan and daughter, Ann, is a successful artist.

Hornback's artistry with a basketball diagram leads him to the Hall of Fame. It's something he has never really given much thought.

"Usually head coaches are the ones who get it," he says. "But I had a lot going for me."

"People have said it should've happened a long time ago, that's what I appreciate most," Elizabeth says.

Hornback, like Harry Lancaster with Adolph Rupp, will be remembered most for being E.A. Diddle's assistant coach — and his best friend. And it's certainly not something that Hornback minds being his claim to fame.

"I don't suppose there was anybody closer to him than I was," Hornback says. "He was my friend, my confidant. He never spoke an unkind word to me in his life. When I came to Western I said to Mr. Diddle, 'What do you want me to do?' He said, 'The offense is yours, the defense is yours, everything is yours. If I don't like it I'll tell you.' He never did tell me so. I gloried in his success."

Hornback shared and contributed greatly to that success.

Give him a little time. He will tell you the story.

*Mirror, mirror on the wall,
Can you answer this riddle:
Who was Kentucky's greatest
coach,
Was it Rupp or Diddle?*



Adolph Rupp and Edgar Allen Diddle were superb basketball coaches with enviable records. Both were noted for fast breaking, high scoring games. Yet, no two men could have been more different, especially in their style of coaching. The difference was revealed in the nicknames sportswriters bestowed upon them. Rupp was "Der Baron;" Diddle was "Uncle Ed."

Both attracted top talent. Both hated to lose. Both demanded the very best their athletes could give.

The Coach Who Cared

BY HENRY C. MAYER

Ed Diddle's record won him a place in the basketball hall of fame, but his former players remember him more for being like a second father.



But in their relationships with their players, the two men were hardly alike. Rupp was seldom charming. His teams at the University of Kentucky frequently stood in awe of his acid tongue. Almost to a man, however, the players at Western Kentucky University loved Diddle.

"He was like a second father to me," said Peck Hickman, himself a successful coach at the University of Louisville.

Few of Rupp's athletes took to coaching as a career. Diddle graduates, on the other hand, almost rivaled those of football's Knute Rockne in following in their mentor's footsteps. It is safe to say that Diddle alumni have directed more Kentucky state high school cham-

pion teams than any other coach's former players. When Louisville St. Xavier played Daviess County in the 1958 state finals, Diddle probably spent one half on each side of the floor as two of his "boys," Gene Rhodes and Buck Sydnor, vied for the state title. Diddle contributed to the college ranks as well through men such as Hickman and Johnny Oldham, his own choice to succeed him at Western.

The record of the man from Gradyville in Adair County testifies to his success:

- 759 victories
- Over 1,000 games coached at the same school
- 32 conference titles (13 Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Con-

ference, 8 Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association, and 11 Ohio Valley Conference)

— 18 seasons with 20 or more wins.

— Appearances in the NCAA, NIT, Orange Bowl, Sugar Bowl, National Campus Tournament and Olympic Playoffs.

Coaching is not a job, but a profession. It is almost a sacred trust, not because athletics are sacred or winning the supreme good but, as Diddle himself once said, "It is here that you see boys become men." Men in the fullest sense: persons of good character. And as a poet once noted, "Character is destiny."

Like Rockne, whom he met and admired, Diddle gave immensely to



Pictures courtesy Western Kentucky University

his boys (and girls). He was a great student of the game, yet his achievements suggest there is more to successful coaching than a superior knowledge of a sport. Diddle also related well to his players, a skill more difficult than merely instructing. Some of it can be acquired, but mostly it is a reflection of the person and his or her manner.

A few comments about the man confirm this belief:

"The most unselfish man I ever knew," said Harry "Pap" Glenn, who starred for Diddle from 1924 to 1926. Diddle once said, while refusing to name an all-time team, "If there was an all-star team of my former players, I would want Pap to captain it."

"He was uncanny how he could read people," said Dee Gibson, a Hilltopper from 1941 to 1943 and from 1946 to 1948.

"Unique — the closest friend in my life," said Kelly Thompson, former president of Western.

"He tried to recruit me, but he didn't lose interest in me when I didn't go to Western," said Wallace "Wah Wah" Jones, a starter on Rupp's "Fabulous Five" team of the mid-1940s.

"I don't recall anyone Ed disliked or anyone who disliked him," said his wife, Louise.

Diddle was born March 12, 1895. Little in his early years in Gradyville and Columbia, his formative years at Centre College and his military service during World War I suggested that he would become one of the winningest coaches of all time. He was not an overly gifted student or a superstar athletically, though his captaincy of the basketball team both in high school and at Centre suggests his leadership skills were recognized.

Not all team captains become great coaches, yet Diddle took to coaching as Einstein to math or Mozart to music. After two years of coaching in high school — one at Monticello, the other Greenville — he went to Western in 1922. Not only did he receive less money than he had been making — \$150 a month — he also found himself coaching football and baseball as well as basketball. His



E. A. Diddle

DEDICATION

Because of his sportsmanship, his friendliness, his remarkable use of psychology, his faithful guidance of many teams to victory we desire to honor him. Therefore, in appreciation of his fifteen years of service to Western we affectionately dedicate this fourteenth volume of The Talisman to the most loyal "Hilltopper" of them all, Coach E. A. Diddle.

The Western College yearbook recognized Diddle's contributions early in his career.

first championship at Western was with the Lady Hilltoppers basketball team, which in 1923 defeated a University of Kentucky team coached by another Kentuckian of more than passing fame, one Albert Benjamin "Happy" Chandler. One of the players on the girls' team that year, Louise Margaret Monen, became Mrs. Diddle — "Mom" to her husband's players.

Mrs. Diddle enjoyed the excitement of sharing her husband's career. Among her more exciting moments were when Ed coached their son, Ed Junior, at Western and later when the younger Diddle sent his own Middle Tennessee team to play against his father's.

"Playing for Dad I think was more pressure on me than anyone else," he recalled. "I seemed to play better on the road than at home."

Of coaching against his father, he said, "After a successful high school coaching career, I wanted to coach against him to prove to some critics he was not coaching my teams. I think it was the third game we played each other, I beat him. All the games were close and hard fought."

"He knew how to reach any type of boy," Peck Hickman recalled.

There was no better example of that quality in action than in his first appearance in the then Super Bowl of college basketball, the National

Invitational Tournament at Madison Square Garden in the spring of 1942. Regular forward Earl Shelton was ailing and had to leave the game. Amid the bedlam of a howling crowd of 18,000, Diddle suddenly roared, "Blevins, get in there!"

Ray Blevins had had very little playing time that season, but somewhere, sometime Diddle had watched him display remarkable outside shooting ability. One of Diddle's cardinal rules was, "Do in practice what you would do in a game." Blevins went in and canned nine shots in a row as Western upset the favorite, Ed Hickey's Creighton Blue Jays, 49-36. Blevins was the only sub to make the all-tournament team. Even today, Dee Gibson and former Western President Dero Downing, both of whom played in that game, wonder what made the coach send him in.

Diddle's influence on his players extended far beyond the basketball court. "From the time a boy walked onto the campus until he graduated with good marks, Diddle demanded good manners, neat grooming and passing grades," recalled former *Courier-Journal* sports editor Earl Ruby.

Kelly Thompson recalled a time when, discouraged by injuries from football and out of funds, he sat on the steps waiting to catch a bus

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